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14ft. 6in. by 10ft. 6in. ... 11 10 0
12ft. 6in. by 11ft. 6in. ... 14 10 0
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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—On Friday the Senate, by 157 to 90, rejected a motion for the revival of military hospital chaplaincies. On Monday the Chamber of Deputies agreed, by 250 votes to 168, to an import duty of 11. 90c. on malt, but rejected a motion for a duty on maize, rice, groats, and semolina. Clause 1 of the Corn Bill was then agreed to. The bakers are now putting in their claim to protection. They maintain that unless there be an import duty on bread the people living on the frontier will find it cheaper to consume Belgian, German, Swiss, Italian, and Spanish bread.

The Minister of War has received a telegram, in which General Briere de Lisle says he has left Phu Duan for Tuyen Quan. The Yunnan army bars the road, but will very slightly delay the march. General Négrier has attacked and dispersed the Chinese beyond Langson, and captured from them some Krupp guns and mitrailleuses. The frontier town of Cua-ai has been taken. The attack of the French squadron on Chinai proves to have been merely a reconnaissance. The squadron has withdrawn.

ITALY.—On Monday, his birthday, the Pope received the congratulations of the Cardinals, and in his reply expressed deep regret at the present position of the Papacy, which had been given up to the enemy, who was, moreover, able to despoil the Vatican of what was left to it by the Law of Guarantees, as witness the spoliation of the property of the Propaganda. Neither he nor his successors could ever accept this state of affairs.

Cardinal Jacobini is reported to have tendered the Pope his resignation of the Secretaryship. Sunday's *Fanfulla* states that the King and Queen received an invitation from the Spanish Minister to inspect the articles provided for the lottery in aid of the sufferers by the recent earthquakes in Spain, the apartments of the Spanish Minister at the Quirinal and the Spanish Ambassador at the Vatican being in the same building. At the last moment Cardinal Jacobini sent an intimation to the Ambassador that if their Majesties were received in his apartments the Papal Nuncio at Madrid would be immediately recalled. The Ambassador being unwilling to accept the responsibility of a rupture, consequently ordered a partition to be hastily constructed so as to separate his apartments from those of the Minister of the Quirinal. The journal adds that the Italian Government has addressed a complaint to the Madrid Cabinet on the subject.

GERMANY.—At the reassembling of the Reichstag, on Monday, Prince Bismarck, in the course of the discussion of the credits demanded for the Cameroons district, said that he had been asked by the British Government for his advice with regard to Egypt, and had answered that, were he an English Minister, he would seek the intervention of the Sultan in order to gain influence in Egypt, but that he would not annex that country. If, however, he added, the English wished for annexation, the Germans would not prevent them, the friendship of England being of greater importance to Germany than the fate of Egypt. The credits asked for were eventually voted.

The Reichstag on Wednesday, on the third reading of the Budget, agreed by 173 against 152 votes to the credit of 20,000 marks for the creation of a second directorship in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which had been rejected on the second reading. The sum required for establishing a German Consulate-General at Capetown was also granted.

AMERICA.—The installation of President Cleveland took place at Washington on Wednesday, the ceremony being witnessed by about 150,000 people. The broad avenue from the Executive Mansion was thronged with crowds, who constantly cheered as Mr. Arthur and Mr. Cleveland passed along, and there were fully 25,000 men in the procession. The new President, in the course of his inaugural address, said:—"To-day the executive branch of the government is transferred to new keeping, but this is still a government of all the people, and should be none the less the object of their affectionate solicitude. At this hour the animosities of political strife, the bitterness of partisan defeat, and the exultation of partisan triumph should be supplanted by ungrudging acquiescence in the popular will, and sober conscientious concern for the general weal."

The last act of Congress before its final adjournment was the passage of the Bill putting General Grant on the retired Army list, with the full pay and rank of general.

Great and general sorrow has (says the *Daily News* correspondent at New York) been caused by an authoritative announcement that General Grant's recovery is despaired of by the physicians and the family. He has been suffering for several months with a cancerous growth at the root of the tongue, and the physicians declared on Saturday that there was no hope of recovery, that he might live six months or might die within three, and that the growth was caused undoubtedly by excessive tobacco smoking, to which General Grant has been addicted throughout his life. When the disease was first discovered he stopped smoking entirely, but it was too late. He suffers much pain in the right ear and at the top of the head, but has displayed great courage, working six or eight hours daily upon the history of his military life, of which the first volume is completed, and the second nearly so. His habit has been to sit with his head bandaged, dictating to his son, listening to the reading of the completed text, and calmly suggesting changes, though suffering intense pain all the time. He has been impatient only of delay, seeming to fear that the end would come before the work was finished.

INDIA.—The Indian Government are making arrangements for the reception of the Ameer with all due pomp at Hassan Abdul. The majority of the higher officials will accompany the Earl of Dufferin thither, and at the same time a camp of exercise for a force of probably 20,000 men will be held there. The meeting between the Viceroy and Abdurrahman is expected to take place on March 28. The following troops are ordered to proceed to Rawul Pindi to take part in the ceremony:—The D-A and

H-A batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, the N-3, R-2, and H-3 batteries of Field Artillery, the 6th Dragoon Guards, the 9th Lancers, the 2nd Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, the 2nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, the 2nd Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry, the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment, the 4th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade (the Prince Consort's Own), the 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's), the 3rd and 18th Bengal Cavalry, the 13th and 14th Bengal Lancers, the Guides, the 1st, 4th, and 5th Ghorkas, the 14th Sikhs, the 19th Bengal Infantry, the 25th and 31st Punjab Infantry, and one infantry regiment of the Punjab Frontier Force. These, with the troops now stationed at Rawul Pindi, will make a total of about 18,500 men.

A disquieting element in connection with the position which Russia has acquired in Central Asia is stated to be the new Transcasian Railway. English officers say that this line will give her the means of a sudden move on Herat, and enable her whenever it may suit her policy to take that place. It is even said that, as matters now stand, Russia, with the railways existing, could be in Herat before our troops could arrive from India to defend it.

The debate on the Bengal Tenancy Bill began in the Legislative Council on Friday. Sir Steuart Bayley, who moved the consideration of the report of the select committee, said the necessity of the proposed measure had been decided on the second reading. He then explained and justified the alterations made by the committee, and asserted that the Bill would benefit the ryots. The Maharajah of Durbunga described the measure as disapproved and discredited by all parties, as opposed by the ryots as well as by the zemindars. Mr. Evans devoted himself chiefly to an attack on the clauses restricting enhancement of rent by private contract. The debate was then adjourned to Monday. It was announced that the council would sit four days a week till the debate was finished. There are 130 amendments.

Tuesday was observed as a public holiday at Sydney in celebration of the departure of the New South Wales contingent for the Sudan. From the acceptance of the offer the utmost public enthusiasm has been shown. The number of volunteers has reached six times the required strength; there has been a continuous flow of contributions in money and in kind, and the Patriotic Fund now amounts to £45,000. The troops were reviewed on Saturday by the Governor, in the presence of 50,000 spectators. On Sunday special services were held for the volunteers in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals, sermons being preached by the Primate and the Roman Catholic Archbishop. On Tuesday the line of route, two miles long, from the barracks to the Circular Quay, was lined by immense numbers of cheering spectators. The troops were escorted by 600 sailors and marines from the men-of-war, and by all the available local forces, and were accompanied by the Governor, the Ministers, and the principal officials. On reaching the quay the men were addressed by the Governor (Lord A. Loftus), who said:—

"For the first time in the great history of the British Empire a distant colony is sending, at its own cost, and completely equipped, a contingent of troops who have volunteered, with an enthusiasm of which only we who witnessed it can judge, to assist the Imperial forces in a bitter struggle for the suppression of unspeakable cruelty and for the establishment of order and justice in a misgoverned country. You will be greeted in Egypt by the hearty welcome of thousands of chivalrous soldiers who have never yet looked upon such an action as yours. Soldiers! you carry in your keeping the honour of this great colony, which has made such splendid sacrifices in order to send you to the front with an equipment of which the nations most practised in war might have been proud. You will have the glorious privilege of helping to maintain the honour of the Empire. In your ranks are numbers who are voluntarily leaving the paths of fortune, worldly advantages, the comforts of home, and the sweetness of domestic life, for heroic service in a bloody war in which already many brave men have been stricken down. You are doing this to show the world the unity of the mighty and invincible Empire of which you are members." The contingent then embarked.

According to a despatch from Panama, the revolution in Colombia is spreading. A battle has been fought at Barranquilla between the insurgents and the Government troops, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of 60 killed, 200 wounded, and 300 prisoners, including the commander and several officers. Some Government soldiers in Cartagena fired on Captain Curtis and a boat's crew from Her Majesty's corvette *Canada* on the 23rd ult., Captain Curtis and one of the sailors being wounded by splinters torn from the side of the boat by the shot.

According to advices from Scutari, a revolt against the Turkish authorities has broken out among the Albanian population in the districts of Pristren and Kosova, the immediate cause of the rising being the resistance offered by the people to the taking of the census. Turkish troops have been sent to the scene of the disturbance.

Hassan Fehmy Pasha is said to have received fresh instructions from the Porte directing him to act in complete accord with Musurus Pasha, and to inform Earl Granville that the Ottoman Government regards the replies of the British Government to the Turkish representations concerning Egypt, the Sudan, and Italy as of a vague and contradictory character.

A *Times* telegram from Durban states that Sir C. Warren's advanced troops have reached the river Ilagoli, half-way between Vryburg and Rooi Grond. Sir Hercules Robinson has assured Mr. Kruger, in reply to a telegram sent to her Majesty's Government, that there exists no intention whatever of interfering with the independence of the Transvaal. He further regrets the harmful circulation of unfounded rumours coming from all quarters to the effect that the Transvaal intends to fight at the beginning of April, and that the Africaner Bondsmen in the Cape territory and the Orange Free State will join, after waiting until the crops have been reaped. Sir J. H. Brand tells Mr. Kruger that this answer will do much good. He, too, has telegraphed to Sir H. Robinson. These messages indicate the state of tension that exists.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

An announcement made by Lord E. Fitzmaurice in the House of Commons, on Monday night, to the effect that on the 2nd of February the garrison of Kassala received a severe defeat at Kolia, involving a loss of twenty-six officers and six hundred and thirty-two men, indicates a serious aggravation of the situation in the Sudan. After the brilliant success which was obtained by the garrison a short time before over the Hadendawas, it might have been hoped that for a time no anxiety need be felt for Kassala, as the troops had escorted a convoy of provisions safely into the town. It was predicted that the effect of the success would be altogether neutralised when the news of the fall of Khartoum, which had not at that time reached the neighbourhood, became known.

No doubt the prediction turned out to be correct. The news of the fall of Khartoum restored the spirits of the Hadendawas, and neutralised the defeat that they themselves had suffered, and when the garrison of Kassala, relying upon the effects of their victory, sallied out to collect provisions, they were attacked by the Arabs, and suffered a crushing defeat. As the whole force defending the town amounted to 3,000 regular Egyptian troops and 2,000 irregulars, the loss of 600 men and officers is very serious, and the moral effect of the defeat cannot but be even greater than the physical.

A telegram from Souakim to the *Standard* states that the *Condor* has brought later news from Mas-sawah.

"The Kassala garrison have not lost courage, although they may have lost hope, for they have again sallied out and have fought another battle with the Hadendawas near Amfiali. They retrieved their late disaster by winning a brilliant victory over the Arabs. It is to be feared that these efforts are but the last struggles of despair, for the Emir of Kassala writes to say that the whole population are now reduced to the direst straits, and that unless relief speedily arrives, they must succumb to famine."

The plan of advance against Abu Hamed has been abandoned. General Brackenbury has received orders not to proceed any further with his column, but to retire for a general concentration of the force. It has been decided (says the *Standard's* correspondent at Korti) that the British force now encamped there shall remain until the autumn, when aggressive operations will be resumed. In the meantime, the troops will occupy positions at various points from Abu Dom to Abu Fatoreh to protect the Nile route from any incursions of the enemy. The weather is gradually becoming hotter and hotter, and several cases of typhoid fever have already occurred.

The same correspondent learns that it has been decided to extend the Sudan railway from a point beyond Sarra, to which there is already a graded line, to Akusheh. Instead of the new line being laid by the bank of the Nile by Ambigol, it will pass through the desert, and the heavy work of cutting through the rock will be avoided. Lord Wolseley contemplates making a further extension of the railway to Firket, and if this be done the portage of the second cataract will alone remain to be encountered.

General Buller arrived at Korti on Sunday afternoon with a small escort. The day before the column left Abu Klea about 1,000 rebels marched from Metammeh and joined those already encamped near the wells, but did not venture to attack our force. The *Daily News* correspondent at Korti says that General Buller filled up the wells, destroyed the works, and marched before the enemy had an idea that any movement was intended. The remainder of the troops will gradually withdraw from Gakdul, spoiling the wells as they retire. The *Daily Chronicle* correspondent, on the other hand, believes there is no intention of abandoning the desert route with the view of concentrating at Korti. Indeed, the troops are being echeloned along the entire route, and bakeries and other depôts are being formed at El Howeiyat and other points. The retention of our troops in this fearful desert during the hot season will, he fears, cost hundreds of lives. Those, he says, who know what the scorching heat of this desert is like when the tropical sun pours down in all its intensity predict that our soldiers will drop off like flies.

Lord Wolseley on Sunday held an inspection of General Gordon's troops. He congratulated them upon the pluck and courage that they had shown, and warmly thanked them for the good work they had done in the transport of the wounded across the desert. He told them that all the promises as to pay and advantages which had been made to them by General Gordon would be faithfully observed, for that the English word once given was always kept. Armies were coming from Souakim and Egypt, and the Sudan would be held by the English until the Mahdi was crushed and Khartoum taken. Upon Lord Wolseley's speech being translated to the troops they were much pleased, and cheered loudly. The General then shook hands with Nuri Pasha, thanked him for his good services, and said that he would not be forgotten or unrewarded. Nuri Pasha, in reply, said that all the soldiers were broken-hearted at the death of General Gordon, who was adored by all of them, and that they hoped the English would avenge his murder, and break the power of the Mahdi. Lord Wolseley said that England was resolved to crush the Mahdi, no matter how long a time it might take her to do so.

General Graham is suffering from an abscess in his ankle, the result of an accident which he met with at Aldershot. Absolute rest is ordered, and it is not probable that he will be able to start for Souakim for another ten days at the earliest.

The *Standard* correspondent believes that it is the intention of the military authorities to strike a severe blow at Osman Digma as quickly as possible after the whole force is assembled at Souakim, and that as soon as his gathering has been defeated the brigade of Guards will at once return to England. The rest of the expeditionary force, some 6,000 in number, will pass the summer near Souakim.

The last convoy of sick and wounded from Gakdul, to the number of 110, under the care of Surgeon-Major Conolly, arrived at Korti on Wednesday. Captain Walsh, Captain Paget, and Quartermaster Jamieson are doing well. Davidson and Surgeon Turner are suffering from dysentery. Seven men died on the

journey. The remainder of General Gordon's troops which came in the steamers from Khartoum have also arrived at Korti. They number, with women and children, 113. Surgeon-Major Conolly reports that the road from Gakdul is open, but small gangs of robbers are still about on the look-out for booty. The conduct of the Camel-Bearer Company in bringing the wounded for 200 miles through a scorching desert almost devoid of water deserves the highest praise. Many of the wounded were carried on stretchers by the black troops, whose behaviour was admirable. All the desert hospital stations are now cleared.

It is stated that the headquarters will shortly move to Dongola. The troops are to be quartered at various points along the Nile, and the steamers, nuggars, and whalers are being got ready for this movement, which is rendered necessary by climatic reasons.

While two unarmed Hussars were passing through the village of Matarieh, near Abbasiyeh, the other day they were attacked and severely beaten by some of the inhabitants. As this is not the first time such an occurrence has taken place at this village, it was determined (the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs) that summary punishment should be inflicted upon the offenders without the usual delays and formalities attending the action of the tribunals.

"Accordingly the Provost Marshal, with a company of military police, went out to Matarieh. On approaching the village the police broke into a gallop and rode into it, taking the inhabitants completely by surprise. In two minutes a cordon was formed round the village, and several of the people who attempted to escape into the orange-groves were overtaken and sent back. The village sheikhs were summoned, and ordered to produce the men who had committed the assault. They, of course, professed ignorance, but a watch was produced, and they were told that unless in a quarter of an hour they gave up the men they themselves would be flogged. This quickened their recollection of the affair. Four men were pointed out as having been concerned in the attack on the Hussars; and, after an animated chase through the village, over house-tops and through gardens they were captured. Two of them were found to be Soudanese. The four captives were identified by the Hussars as being their assailants, and they were at once tied up to a tree in front of the mosque, and were then, in the presence of the assembled villagers, soundly flogged one after another, first with a stirrup leather and then with the kourbash by the military police. The men were then turned loose, with a warning that the police would in future be armed with revolvers, and would have orders immediately to shoot any who might attack Englishmen."

The following very interesting letter from the late Sir Herbert Stewart to Mr. C. R. Low has been published, giving some experiences of his service with Lord Wolseley, whose pupil in the art of war he was, and for whom he entertained an ardent admiration. In the adventurous ride from Pretoria to Newcastle, described in the letter, Sir Herbert Stewart was Lord Wolseley's only companion:—

"What I observed chiefly in Lord Wolseley was his extraordinary power of implanting confidence to all around him, and also the influence that he can exercise to win over the most cantankerous of mortals. I have seen old colonels more than once, who had never before seen him, who were jealous of his success, and whose bristles were all up, come out after an interview with their prejudices shaken and added to his devoted admirers. His power and rapidity of doing business is also, as you no doubt know well, one of his greatest traits. His freedom from any sort of prejudice is also remarkable in a profession which is full of it."

"In South Africa, taken generally, what I noticed chiefly was the change that came over the soldiers after his arrival. It is not too much to say that in the Zulu war great portions of the army were really almost demoralised, and the very name of a Zulu was enough to make them run behind the nearest waggon. The same men, but a month or two afterwards, thought themselves individually equal to fifty natives, and in the operations against Secocoeni exhibited this in a marked degree."

"Lord Wolseley's determination also was very great. Upon one occasion he determined to ride to Newcastle from Pretoria; he used troopers only. He left Pretoria at 7 a.m. and reached Heidelberg, 56 miles, a little before 1 p.m. Pushing on from here he was caught in a violent thunderstorm, arriving at the next stage, McHatty's, 18 miles, drenched through and through. Although the storm had not ceased he endeavoured to push on from here, with the result that he lost his way in the veldt, and was wandering in rain and darkness until 2 a.m. the following day. At 6 a.m. he was away again, with a very similar day to follow, determined to arrive at Newcastle as he had arranged."

"I attribute the rising of the Boers, in the winter of 1880, very much to the influence of his absence. During the whole time he was at Pretoria he held them comfortably in check. Their chances of success were great and the position would have been awkward had they risen when Sir Garnet was en route to Secocoeni, but his influence was quite sufficient to restrain them."

"In Egypt the day that struck me most, or rather where his individuality had the greatest play, apart from Tel-el-Kebir, was the 24th of August. Starting in the morning to make a small reconnaissance, he came upon the Egyptians in considerable strength. As their numbers developed and their guns came into play, as their irregulars threatened our flanks, and their main body formed up, apparently to come on, I believe that nine men out of ten would have thought how to retire judiciously. I remember so well his expression at the time when things looked worst—"I shall turn their left flank and roll them into the Canal." The late arrival of reinforcements, owing to the heat of the march, prevented his doing this on that day eventually, but I shall never forget the sublime confidence of the man under the circumstances, a confidence that had a great influence, in my opinion the very greatest, on the course of the campaign."

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure in showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likeness in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

IRELAND.

It is understood that the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland is definitely fixed to take place in the second week in April. It is now almost certain that their Royal Highnesses will land at Kingstown, orders having been issued for the Royal yacht *Osborne* to be at Holyhead on the 7th of April to convey the Prince and Princess to Ireland.

At a meeting of the National League in the Phoenix Park on Sunday, the Lord Mayor of Dublin said that he had received advertisements of flags and decorations from English houses, which expected him to require such articles for the reception of the Prince and Princess of Wales in Dublin. They would not, however, get a penny of his money. He even intended to haul down the civic flag, which was always flying from the Mansion House, on the day the Prince landed at Kingstown. At a meeting of the Corporation on Monday he declared it to be premature to take any steps for the presentation of an address to the Prince of Wales on his visit, and although challenged in reference to his remark on the previous day as to hauling down the Mansion House flag he did not reply. On Thursday the following letter was published in the London papers:—"I will feel much obliged by your permitting me to express through your columns my sincere regret for having, under the excitement of a mass meeting, used language in reference to the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales which is justly liable to censure as offering disrespect to their Royal Highnesses. Nothing was further from my intention than to do so, and I trust to your courtesy to publish this apology.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN O'CONNOR, Lord Mayor, Mansion House, Dublin."

A meeting, said to number 10,000 persons, assembled under Nationalist auspices in Phoenix Park, Dublin, on Sunday, to protest against the suspension of Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., by the Speaker of the House of Commons on Tuesday week. Mr. O'Brien, who made a violent speech, said the position of Irishmen to England was one of revolution tempered with the scarcity of firearms. He bitterly denounced the Castle Government, and, referring to the forthcoming Royal visit, suggested that, while Irishmen would show that they could be civil, they would treat the Prince of Wales as a stranger.

The Protestant church of Glenfin, in the parish of Kiltrock, county Donegal, of which the Rev. P. Willoughby is the incumbent, was damaged by an explosion of dynamite on Tuesday. Two cartridges were exploded, carrying away two square feet of solid masonry, and other cartridges were found in the vicinity of the edifice. The district is described as being one of the quietest in Ireland, and the outrage has occasioned much surprise and indignation. A telegram from Derry states that no arrest has yet been made. The outrage seems to have been well planned, and was carried out in the middle of the night. Cartridges with fuses attached were used. A later telegram states that three canisters packed with cartridges of dynamite were placed in the ventilating gratings along the base of the edifice. Two of these canisters exploded. A tramp has been arrested.

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland will assemble this year on the 14th of April.

The Archbishop of Dublin held his first ordination on Sunday last, in Christ Church Cathedral, when nine priests and five deacons were ordained. On the 22nd ult., the Bishop of Tuam held an ordination in St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, when the following were ordained:—Deacon, H. R. Neill, T.C.D.; Priest, J. M. Stephens, T.C.D.

An agrarian outrage was committed near Donoughmore on Saturday night. The house of a caretaker on an evicted farm on the property of Mr. Hairehouse was broken into by three men with blackened faces carrying firearms. The caretaker was severely beaten and was cut about the head. A shot was fired at his son, who offered some resistance; but the charge passed between his legs and killed a dog. There is a police protection hut within a few miles of the place. No arrests have been made.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Lord GRANVILLE moved their Lordships to take into consideration the Queen's messages with reference to the Reserves and the Militia. Lord LONGFORD did not think that what was proposed to be done would be adequate to the necessities of the case. As he had frequently suggested, our war establishments were below what was required for the fulfilment of our responsibilities. Lord HARDINGE agreed with Lord Longford. He believed that a proclamation inviting men of the Reserves to come back to the colours would be well responded to; and he asked the Under-Secretary for War how it was proposed to bring our battalions up to their proper strength. Lord MORLEY, in reply, stated that recruiting was going on very rapidly. Last autumn a circular inviting, under certain conditions, men of the Reserves to return to the colours was issued by the War Office, and towards the close of last month another circular was promulgated which extended the invitation to classes of men not included in the first document. The extent to which the War Office had determined to embody the Militia was thought by the Secretary for War sufficient to meet the existing requirements in respect of that branch of the service.

Lord GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord DONCHESTER, stated that the question of the employment of Indian troops had not been overlooked; and Lord DERRY, answering Lord BURY, said that the offers of military assistance made by one colony had been accepted at once because the troops offered could be sent to the scene of operations within a certain time. The other colonies which made the offers had been told that their troops would be accepted if the war continued. Lord BURY thought that all the offers ought to have been accepted at once, with intimation that the troops would not be called for till required. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE understood that all the offers had been accepted in case the troops offered were required. Speaking from a purely military point of view, he gave it as his opinion that the question of keeping up

our Reserves would require the anxious consideration of the Government. He approved trying the plan of getting volunteers from the Reserves before calling out any class of that force. After some further conversation, two addresses in answer to Her Majesty's messages were agreed to on the motion of Lord GRANVILLE.

Lord GRANVILLE, in answer to Lord SIDMOUTH, said that the recent Convention between France and Burma appeared to be of a purely commercial character, and he did not believe the reports that there had been concessions of territory by Burma to France.

Their Lordships rose at five minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Lord HARTINGTON, in the absence of Mr. Gladstone from indisposition, answering a question from Mr. GOSSET as to a statement said to have been made by Lord Wolsley at Korti, to the effect that the English would crush the Mahdi though it were necessary to remain in the Soudan one hundred years to do so, said that the Government had no knowledge of the speech attributed to Lord Wolsley, and no instructions had been sent to him beyond those already made public. In answer to questions as to the Estimates, he said the supplementary Estimates would contain the sums to be spent in Egypt in this financial year not already voted; but the remaining expenditure would be asked for in a vote of credit, and he promised to consider whether the cost of the railway could be distinguished from the other expenditure.

Answering questions as to the arrangement of the Egyptian finances, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he believed that was virtually concluded. It would consist, he believed, of a convention, a decree, and some other document; but he was not yet able to say how they would be separated. The arrangement would be made subject to the assent of Parliament.

Sir THOMAS BRASSEY having stated in replying to Sir EDWARD REED that the Admiralty had decided not to add to the armour of the recently-built ships, Sir EDWARD REED gave notice that on the Navy Estimates he would move a resolution declaring the condition of the Navy to be unsatisfactory, owing to defective administration and the extravagant expenditure of the sum voted.

On the consideration of the Queen's message relating to the Reserves, Lord HARTINGTON having moved the usual answer in reply, Mr. LABOUCHERE moved an amendment protesting, in the absence of a definite Ministerial policy, against the expense which was being incurred in the Soudan, and objected to the Militia being called out, seeing that, whatever forces might be sent to the Soudan, they could do nothing until next autumn. Sir JOHN HERON-MAXWELL complained that the Guards had been sent to the Soudan, and maintained that it was unusual to make use of them except on occasions of political as well as military importance. He also called attention to the extreme youth of Army recruits, and asked how it was proposed to obtain reinforcements for the regiments now in the Soudan. Mr. W. REDMOND having suggested that troops from Ireland and the Irish Constabulary should be sent to Egypt, Mr. CARBUTT complained generally of the policy of the Government in the Soudan, and expressed his intention to oppose it at every step. Mr. Gosset, Sir P. O'Brien, Sir Walter Barttelot, and Colonel Nolan having continued the conversation, Lord HARTINGTON replied in detail to the various questions which had been raised. He observed that the Guards, though they did not take the ordinary round of garrison duty, expected to be the first to be made use of in any campaign; and, with regard to the Reserves, he said that they would not be called out unless sufficient volunteers were not forthcoming. Alluding to the offers of troops by the colonies, he mentioned that inquiries were being made as to the extent to which the colonies could give assistance should their services be offered upon any future occasion. Sir HENRY WOLFE asked what was going to be done to relieve the garrison of Kassala, to which no reply was given; and, on a division, the amendment was negatived by 149 to 19. The Address was then agreed to, after some further conversation as to the relief of Kassala; and the Queen's message relative to the calling out of the Militia having also been read, a similar Address in reply was agreed to.

On the order of the day for recommitting the Redistribution Bill, Sir JOHN LUBBOCK moved an instruction to the Committee to provide that in all cases where an elector is entitled to one vote only, the elector may nominate more than one candidate to whom, under certain circumstances, that vote might be transferred in the manner indicated by the elector. In support of it Sir John went at length into the details of the preferential voting machinery, maintaining that it afforded the only means of securing a full and fair representation of all classes and opinions, and laid special stress on its necessity to do justice in the case of Ireland. Sir CHARLES DILKE, in reply, maintained that the one-member system would more accurately represent the minority than the present system. He doubted whether the allegation that it would result in over-representation could be supported, and he pointed out that the principle had been accepted by many of the large towns in the north of England. Turning more directly to the subject of proportional representation, he dealt in detail with the arguments advanced in favour of it. The discussion was adjourned and the House rose at twenty minutes to two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Lord KIMBERLEY, replying to Lord CAMPERDOWN, gave the names of the four native States in India which had offered troops for the operations in the Soudan. They were Hyderabad, Bhopal, Puttala, and Jheend. He observed that, whether Her Majesty's Government would be able to avail themselves of these offers or not, the fact that they had been made was most gratifying and would tend to draw closer the ties between those States and the Imperial Government.

Lord GRANVILLE, replying to Lord SALISBURY, said: According to the latest reports received from Sir Peter Lumsden, the Russian outposts have occupied the Zulfikar Pass, about twenty miles to the south of Pul-i-Khatun, Akrobat, between Zulfikar and the River Khushk, and Sari-Yasi. A post of Yulatan Turkomans has also been stationed at Pul-i-Khisti, a few miles north of Penjdeh, by Colonel

Alikhanoff, who, after placing them, has retired, presumably to Sari-Yasi. Representations are being made to the Russian Government, earnestly pressing them to give stringent orders to their military commanders to refrain from any further forward movements which would bring about a collision between the Afghan and Russian outposts. The Russian Government, in reply to a remonstrance from Her Majesty's Government, declined on the 24th ult. to withdraw from their advanced posts at Sari-Yasi and the Zulfikar Pass, but gave assurances that their officers had been ordered carefully to avoid conflicts with the Afghans, and that complications were only to be feared in the event of the Afghans attacking the Russian posts. Sir Peter Lumsden, who has exerted himself to prevent any collision, has advised the Afghans to maintain themselves in the positions now occupied by them. This advice has been approved by Her Majesty's Government; and he has been instructed to urge them at the same time not to advance beyond their present positions. Negotiations are proceeding with the Russian Government. Lord SALISBURY asked whether the places named by Lord Granville were within or outside the Afghan boundary. Lord KIMBERLEY replied that the question of the Afghan boundary was one to be settled by the Commission; but those places were within what Her Majesty's Government had always regarded as that boundary.

On the motion of Lord MILLTOWN, the Prevention of Crimes Act Amendment Bill was read a second time. Their Lordships rose at twenty minutes to five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE made a statement similar to that by Lord Granville as to the advance of the Russians in Central Asia. After question time, Mr. SEXTON proposed to move the adjournment of the House, under the standing order, in order to call attention to the action of the Chair last week in suspending Mr. O'Brien and applying the cloture; but the SPEAKER pointed out the vital blow which would be struck at the authority of the Chair and the discipline of the House by allowing his rulings to be challenged in this casual and indirect manner. Amid loud cheers from both sides, he said it was his duty to respect the rights of every member of the House; but in common with other members he had rights, and one of them was that if his conduct was impugned it should be by motion, and in a form which would permit the opinion of the House to be tested. He therefore took upon himself to rule Mr. SEXTON's proposed motion out of order. Mr. SEXTON thereupon asked the Prime Minister to give him a day for a motion; but Mr. GLADSTONE declined, not recognising any urgency in the matter sufficient to justify an interference with the progress of the Seats Bill.

Lord FOLKESTONE resumed the debate on Sir John Lubbock's instruction to the Committee on the Seats Bill. Speaking in support of the motion, he dealt with the various objections which had been raised to proportional representation, and, referring to the arguments of Mr. Leatham, denied that the system would in any way interfere with the secrecy of the ballot. He maintained that there was no more element of chance involved in the system of minority representation than there was in the plan proposed by the Government, and asked for more time to educate the country in the details of the scheme. Mr. RYLANDS objected to what he described as a scientific and philosophical system of voting, and supported the principle of one-member constituencies. After a few words from Mr. GRADY against the motion, Mr. COURTNEY corrected the misapprehension that the scheme only applied to one-member constituencies. Its primary object was to enable electors to indicate the order in which they preferred candidates to be elected, and he pointed out the means by which in such a case a second ballot would not be needed. Having glanced at the probable effect of proportional representation in Ireland, he contended that the present Seats Bill would eventually result in the repeal of the Union, and, in conclusion, disputed the allegation that any element of chance was involved in the plan. Mr. C. LEWIS criticised the observations of Mr. Courtney with respect to the effect of the Seats Bill in Ireland, and protested against the suggestion that the Liberal loyalists would join the Nationalists. Sir S. NORTHGOTE, in closing the debate, objected to the proposal, on the ground that it would destroy all that variety of representation which the supporters of the system alleged would be maintained. The plan, he said, would land us in the *scrutin de liste*, to which he was strongly opposed; and the real way to get over the difficulties of an extended franchise and redistribution was to bring the candidate and the voter together as closely as possible. On a division the instruction of Sir John Lubbock was lost by 134 to 31.

Mr. CRAIG SELLAR did not press his motion to make the increase in the Scotch representation "a vital point," after receiving an assurance from Sir Charles Dilke that the Government would consider it essential to preserve equal the lines between the three countries. Sir JOHN HAY next moved that the numbers of the House should not be increased, and that Ireland would be amply represented by ninety members and Wales by twenty-five. Lord CAICHTON seconded the motion; and Sir CHARLES DILKE, in opposing it, pointed out that though Ireland had one member to every 51,000, and Wales one to every 45,000, there were many portions of southern and eastern England whose ratio of members to population was much larger. Mr. SHAW-LEFEBVRE, briefly replying to several members who afterwards spoke, observed that it was undesirable to reduce the number of members for Ireland both for statistical and political reasons, which he explained, and he hoped that the proposals of the Government would be adopted. After some further debate, Sir STAFFORD NORTHGOTE deprecated a perseverance in motions which at present could only hinder the progress of the Bill, and pointed out that all these matters might be discussed in Committee with the hope of a more practical result. As to an increase in the number of members, though no doubt many objected to it, he anticipated that when it was worked out practically it would be found that the scheme proposed by the Government was the most feasible. After a motion to adjourn the debate had been disposed of, Sir John Hay's resolution was negatived by 25 to 132, and the further proceedings on going into Committee were adjourned.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The afternoon was occupied in a further discussion of the motion to go into Committee on the Redistribution Bill, which was of an unusually desultory character. Mr. WARTON commenced it by commenting on the inconvenient mode of procedure which had been adopted, as the result of which he pointed out that there had been no adequate discussion of the principle of the Bill. At the same time, he was in favour of standing by the bargain which had been concluded between the two front benches. Mr. HEALY criticised in great detail the arrangement of the Irish boundaries, which, he said, had been "gerrymandered" in the north for the benefit of the Ulster Conservatives. Sir C. DILKE replied to this attack, explaining at equal length the principles on which the Commissioners had acted, and justifying the conclusions at which they had arrived. Mr. RAIKES gave notice of his intention to move in Committee that the existing metropolitan boroughs be retained and divided into wards, with the same representation as they would be entitled to under the Bill. Mr. BIGGAR spoke until a quarter to six, when the debate was again further adjourned. Some other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Lord WEMYSS gave notice that on Monday next he will move an Address thanking Her Majesty for having graciously accepted the offer to this country of military assistance by New South Wales, and expressing the satisfaction with which the House had heard that similar offers by other colonies would be accepted when the right time arrived.

The Marriages Legalisation Bill and the Prevention of Crimes Amendment Bill passed through Committee; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill was read a second time.

Lord LOTHIAN, who disclaimed any wish to embarrass the Government by putting the questions, asked whether they had any accurate survey of the proposed line of railway from Souakim to Berber; whether there was a contract for the construction of the line, and whether, if there was, it would be produced; whether the line was likely to be finished before the autumn, and, if not, what steps would be taken to secure the forces under Lord Wolsley; and, lastly, whether Lord Wolsley had publicly announced his intention to advance on and take Khartoum. The noble Lord expressed a strongly adverse opinion of the policy of going to Khartoum and hastily coming back again. He should like to see the Government adopt the policy enunciated by General Gordon, who, in the last words of his that reached us, said he was determined to hold his own. Lord MORLEY replied that the Government had no accurate survey, but they had such information as led them to believe that there would be no insuperable difficulties in the construction of the line. There was no contract. On terms which had been committed to writing, the contractors were to act in the matter as agents of the Government, and those terms would be laid upon the table in a short time. The Government were not sure that a line could be constructed by the autumn, but the work would be pressed forward, and they had every reason to hope that a line, not a perfect one but one sufficient for military purposes, would be completed for the entire distance between Souakim and Berber, or for a useful portion of it, before autumn. Everything would be done to keep Lord Wolsley's army well supplied. The Government had no information that Lord Wolsley had publicly announced the intention referred to by Lord Lothian. Lord BURY thought that the questions had not been answered in a satisfactory manner; and Lord ELLENBOROUGH suggested that our troops would suffer more from inactivity than from advancing. Lord STANHOPE complained that Parliament had had no clear statement as to the intentions of the Government; and Lord GALLOWAY asked the Under-Secretary for War to name a time when the terms with the contractors would be laid on the table. Lord SALISBURY suggested that the Government would require Aladdin's lamp to construct in an enemy's country, and on land of which they had not the possession and had no survey, a line of railway at the rate of two miles a day. He presumed that no plant had as yet been procured. It was very desirable that Parliament should have before it the terms made with the contractors. Lord GRANVILLE observed that the plant was all ready, and that a military railway could be made much quicker than one for ordinary traffic. Lord NAPIER of MAGDALA concurred in Lord Granville's opinion as to the making of the railway. He added that he did not believe that there was any use in talking of a treaty with the Mahdi. We should have to beat that personage or let him alone, and he hoped we should beat him. Lord DERRY, replying to Lord STANHOPE, said there was no correspondence going on with the German Government in reference to territory in the vicinity of St. Lucia Bay.

Their Lordships rose at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Some time was occupied at the commencement of the sitting by the private business, and the questions were over sixty in number, so that it was seven o'clock before the Orders of the Day were reached. There were several questions on the paper relating to the position of affairs on the Afghan frontier; and Mr. GLADSTONE said, in reference to them generally, that it would be prejudicial to the public interest at the present moment to answer any questions relating to matters of policy. The policy to be pursued in reference to the Afghan frontier had long been known to be a policy strictly national, on which there was practically complete unanimity without any distinction of party, but the reception given to answers occasionally was such as to foster an injurious and groundless belief that differences of opinion existed. Mr. ONSLOW asked what this national policy was, at which there were some cries of "Oh" from the Ministerial benches, but no answer was given. Lord E. FITZMAURICE also declined to answer a question from Sir H. TYLER as to the reported resignation of Sir P. Lumsden and the dispositions of the Ameer, adding that the Ameer, after the assurances he had received, had full confidence in the British Govern-

ment, and his approaching visit to India afforded the best proof of it. In answer to a question as to Kassala, he said the Italian Government were in possession of all the facts, and Her Majesty's Government would leave it to them to decide on the steps to be taken. In answer to a question as to the reported increase in the Army, Lord HARTINGTON said that when the Vote of Credit was laid on the table it would be necessary to ask for an additional number of men for the Army in addition to those already voted; but at present he would not state the number. Mr. GLADSTONE, being asked by Sir H. WOLFE to explain the discrepancy between Prince Bismarck's speech in the Reichstag and Lord Granville's remark that the Prince advised the late Government to take Egypt, said that the Foreign Secretary would take an opportunity of making a statement in his place.

The House then went into Committee of Supply. Sir T. BRASSEY moved a supplemental estimate of £330,000 to meet the expenses incurred in connection with the Egyptian campaign. Mr. W. H. SMITH complained that the Government had done nothing to carry out the pledge they gave in December to increase the strength of the Navy, and Mr. CARBUTT called attention to the absence of any responsible authority to deal with questions relating to the manufacture of guns. Sir J. HAY enforced the complaint of Mr. Smith. Sir G. BALFOUR and Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT made some remarks, and Mr. LABOUCHERE moved that the vote be reduced by £250,000 on the ground that the sum asked for was to pay the expenses of the Egyptian campaign, which, he maintained, ought to be defrayed by the Egyptian Government. Sir H. WOLFE and Mr. PULESTON also spoke, and Mr. SEXTON complained that Irish firms had not been employed by the Admiralty, as was promised during the discussion on the Navy last December. Mr. CHINE stated in detail what had been done in the matter, and contended that no time had been lost in getting in hand the work promised in December. After some further conversation on the subject of the employment of Irish shipbuilders, which the Irish members kept up for a considerable time, the motion of Mr. Labouchere was lost on a division by 66 to 22, and the vote was carried.

The Committee then proceeded with the Supplementary Civil Service Estimates, and on the vote of £83,520 for the purchase of the Marlborough pictures Mr. CURTIS opposed it, contending that at this time of general depression and war expenditure to pay an extraordinary and unprecedented price for a couple of pictures was an unwarrantable extravagance. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER justified the course pursued by the Government on the ground that the National Gallery was particularly deficient in examples of Raphael. He described the negotiations in connection with the purchase, and was convinced that the Raphael could not have been obtained for less than £70,000. Sir G. GOLDNEY thought the expenditure on works of art ought to be limited to a specific sum per annum. Mr. STORRY-MASKELYNE defended the purchase, and Mr. G. HOWARD, instancing the sums given for works of art by foreign Governments, argued that too large a sum had not been offered for the Blenheim pictures. Mr. SCLATER-BODDIE objected to the Government running up the price of pictures, and Mr. MARJORIBANKS, as a trustee of the Marlborough estates, thought the country had obtained the pictures at a price much less than would have been obtained if the Duke of Marlborough had been more firm. Mr. JENKINSON supported the vote, and Mr. AONNEW also, speaking in justification of the purchase as an excellent bargain, bore testimony to the satisfactory management of the National Gallery. Mr. COOPER, Mr. HEALY, and Mr. MAGNIAC approved of the purchase, and Mr. GURST opposed it, as did Mr. BIGGAR, Mr. WILLIS, and Mr. W. REDMOND. At the end of the discussion Mr. CURTIS offered to withdraw his opposition, but this was not allowed, and the vote was carried on a division by 131 to 30.

Several other votes were agreed to, and the House adjourned at one o'clock.

SOME INCIDENTS OF THE CENSURE DEBATES.

The debates last week on the votes of censure were of so much importance that a few personal sketches of them called from various sources may not be without interest to our readers. To commence with that in the House of Lords, the *St. James's* remarks that the House, though crowded during the hour in which Lord Salisbury was delivering his brilliant attack upon the Ministry, thinned as soon as the noble Marquis had done, and other speakers had to address themselves to comparatively empty benches. This, in itself, was a remarkable testimony to the merits of Lord Salisbury's speech. When he rose the Opposition benches were inconveniently crowded, but there were a good many gaps in the Liberal ranks behind the Treasury bench. He spoke for close upon an hour, and chained the attention of his audience in a way which only a master of close reasoning, aided by the arts of a fine nervous rhetoric, can. The effect was increased by a grave melancholy tone and manner, which exactly suited his subject, and which were saved from all peril of monotony by those little spurts of epigrammatic pungency and flashes of sarcastic humour that are freely scattered through all his speeches. As he went on scoring point after point with cold deliberation and merciless severity, the Opposition were animated to a genuine excitement, and cheer followed cheer; while the Ministerials were not merely dumb, but dispirited and dismayed, and the lash of Lord Salisbury's eloquent indictment, like the uplifted cane of Colonel Newcome, seemed to fall on every back on the Liberal side of the House. Lord Northbrook's defence of the Government, says the same journal, was so curiously arranged and so artlessly expressed that the House, or as much as was left of it, was moved at times to much laughter. Lord Northbrook's "points" were advanced with an apparent innocence which would have been amusing but for the disquieting recollection that they were gravely put forward by a Cabinet Minister for the acceptance of Parliament. A sample or two may suffice. It was to Arabi rather than to the British fleet that the bombardment of Alexandria was due. The Government had "no reason to think" that the army of

Baker Pasha would not be victorious. If those troops had only stood firm, they would have been —; but the remainder of this innocent remark was drowned in a deluge of laughter. The Government had "no reason to believe," when Gordon was shut up in Khartoum, that he had "a very powerful force" arrayed against him. They were reluctant to send troops into the interior of Africa, and "hoped that circumstances might arise to prevent it." It was "unfair" to say the Government had no policy, because they sent out an expedition; and though that expedition "unfortunately failed," it failed "just at the moment they expected it to succeed." While Lord Northbrook was speaking, an impartial critic was heard to remark that "Salisbury's impeachment of the Government was the strongest he had yet heard except Northbrook's."

On the second day of the debate in the Lords, says the *Pall Mall*, the attendance before the division was not so great as on many similar occasions, and over the Opposition benches there was a considerable vacant space in the Peers' Gallery, which before dinner on both nights had been so crowded. Comparatively few being in evening dress, as is the case when full-dress debates occur in the season, the scene was not so brilliant as is often the case. The Diplomatic Gallery was crowded, and the members of the House of Commons jostled one another in their galleries. On the other hand, the steps to the Throne were never uncomfortably crowded. Mr. W. H. Smith and Mr. Sclater-Booth being the most prominent figures late on Friday night, as Lord John Manners had been on Thursday. The Strangers' Gallery was not by any means so full before the division as it had been before dinner. Still, as the Peers came back after dinner, the scene was a grand one, and the speaking was far better than on Thursday, while the conspicuous feature of it was the almost entire lack of independent support which the Government received. When Lord Granville, pressed for his authority for his statement that Lord Beaconsfield had stated that he would not accept Egypt as a gift, waved his hand in the direction of Lord Derby, the gesture of polite acquiescence and of supreme contempt for the source of information in which Lord Salisbury indulged, was very effective, as was also his short reply, and he was vociferously cheered when he said that what the Government feared was not so much the Mahdi in the desert as the Mahdi below the gangway. When the division was called the excitement was great. The Liberal benches were nearly empty, and opposed there was a serried rank of Conservatives. Only three Bishops were in the House—St. Albans, Bangor, and Liverpool—and they all voted for Lord Salisbury's motion. The two Primates had been present earlier in the debate, but were absent; the Bishop of Newcastle was in the House of Commons. The majority of the Bishops were probably not sorry that their ordination examination gave them an excuse for absence. Lord Coleridge was away on circuit, and Lord Penzance was ill. The Prince of Wales, with a white camelia in his buttonhole, and the Duke of Cambridge went to the steps of the Throne, and the Prince at once entered into conversation with Mr. W. H. Smith, while he shook hands with many of the Tory peers as they filed past him on the way to the Content lobby. Just before Lord Salisbury spoke he was summoned out for a consultation with Mr. Rowland Wynn. The Liberals were soon counted. It seemed as if the Tory host would never have finished coming in, and when at last the Earl of Lathom handed the numbers to the Lord Chancellor, no one who had watched the division from the gallery was surprised at the largeness of the majority.

The scene in the central lobby between the time when the two Houses divided presented a striking contrast to former occasions of the kind, notably to the great divisions on the Danish question, when both Houses divided the same night. The effect of the new police regulations was clearly apparent. Not more than thirty persons were present—all more or less well-known politicians—speculating on the Irish vote and the result of the division generally. The one lady who was present said it reminded her more of a funeral than the brilliant scenes she had formerly witnessed in the lobby. Inspector Denning seemed quite content with the change, but Mr. J. G. Talbot, Mr. Raikes, Sir Charles Forster, and other members who surveyed the scene seemed little less surprised at the changed aspect of affairs than the lady in question.

Turning now to the Commons, we first have to note the large attendance on Monday evening, and the thrill which was sent through the House by the accidental breaking of a pane of glass in the door of the lobby entrance, which for a moment or two was magnified by the imagination of the members present into a new dynamite outrage. Sir Stafford's opening speech has been amply discussed, and it is sufficient to note that the good points (says the *Pall Mall*) were vivaciously cheered by his supporters. Throughout the evening, indeed, the lustiness of Tory lungs contrasted very remarkably with the gloom that hung over the Liberal benches. The same journal says of the speech of Mr. John Morley, that while coldly received at first, even by those immediately around him, and rather hard and mechanical in his delivery, perhaps from a well-concealed nervousness, the force of his arguments and the evident intensity of his convictions gradually gained upon his hearers. His speech was not long—some thirty minutes—and contained no superfluous sentences. His criticism of Mr. Gladstone's reasons of Thursday for "breaking the power of the Mahdi at Khartoum" was simply smashing. When he got upon his favourite theme of the vastness of England's responsibilities—already beyond her power adequately to discharge—and of the "hideous moral misdemeanour" of "sanguinary wars without any beneficent aim"—a phrase which he fired *à brûle-pourpoint* into the ranks of the Ministry—his lucid and earnest vigour almost reached the point of genuine eloquence. Few harder truths have ever been spoken straight into the face of Ministers than his reflections on "the want of courage and even of honesty" which had characterised the attitude of the Government throughout in face of those aggressive impulses which they had so often denounced and as often yielded to. Mr. Morley's was a remarkable effort—outspoken, incisive, deadly—yet it hardly elicited applause proportionate to its merit, or even to its immediate effect. Only the Irish members greeted with shouts of delight his reference to Mr. Foster's famous crusade against Zobeir and his denunciation of any attempt to subject the Soudan to the "cast-

iron benevolence" of an English Administration. But, cold as his audience was—and the Ministerials were in no humour for enthusiasm—Mr. Morley's speech was the success of the evening. And, sitting beside him, even Mr. Courtney smiled condescending approval, as if to say, "Well done, my dear fellow. With one exception, nobody could have put it better." Who that exception was there could be no doubt, but it was made manifest when Mr. Courtney had to speak for himself, demonstrating, as the *Observer* says, "the errors of the Government and his own infallibility." But to return to Monday evening. As Mr. Gladstone rose the House was on the tiptoe of expectation, but only to be woefully disappointed. He was minimising and conciliatory; not vehement—not, except in two short passages, even warm. A laboured eulogy of Gordon, the copiousness of which was presumably intended to atone for its tardy delivery, opened the speech, and met with a *succès d'estime*; and then for some three-quarters of an hour the Prime Minister devoted his energies to convincing himself, by a large assortment of those arguments which his enemies are fond of describing as sophistical, that no man in his senses could for a moment imagine that the Ministry was in any way responsible for Gordon's fate. All this, being of course inevitable, was received by the House with a decent silence, broken at rare intervals by a perfunctory cheer when some interjection of the Opposition was neatly parried by the great master of parliamentary fence. The hearty applause of the faithful majority was reserved for the few glowing sentences in which Mr. Gladstone denounced the attempt to pledge the country to establish "a good and stable government" in any part of the Soudan. Dwelling upon the iniquity of setting up "a British government over aliens, a Christian government over Mohammedans, a despotic government," &c., &c., Mr. Gladstone was once more on the dear old ground. The vision of "the people struggling to be free," whom we have shot so freely, once more fired his imagination, and touched his lips for a moment with the old flame. No wonder Mr. Morley nodded approval, and lifted his hat to acknowledge the compliment. Every word uttered by Mr. Gladstone at this juncture was the most glowing confirmation of Mr. Morley's arguments; but members below the gangway were not alone in their approval. With rare exceptions the whole Liberal body cheered these soul-stirring sentiments, as they cheered nothing else before or after. When having thus endorsed Mr. Morley's policy, the Prime Minister went on, in the concluding sentences of his speech, to show why he could not adopt it, his manner became lifeless, his voice almost inaudible, and it was only in the concluding sentences, when he defied the Opposition, and confidently challenged the opinion of the House—sentences of considerable eloquence delivered with gusto—that the orator rose to his old height. It was now nine o'clock. There were cheers of tolerable heartiness as Mr. Gladstone sat down, then a rush for dinner, and in less than a minute the House was a desert, and only Mr. Gladstone, with a solitary companion, remained for a moment, looking weary but satisfied, upon the empty battlefield. In three hours the great debate had been reduced to inanity, and the policy of the Government (the contradictions of which some sanguine persons had hoped to see cleared up) had been safely enveloped in a coil of phrases from which the debate of the subsequent nights did not disentangle it.

There was not much more of the personal element of interest during those subsequent nights till the concluding Friday. When on that evening Mr. Forster spoke he aroused great interest and excitement. A graphic sketch of his speech is given in the *Observer*, which says that it was evidently carefully prepared, for at times he recited whole sentences from his notes. But his manner was brighter than it sometimes is. There was, indeed, something unusually dramatic about his delivery, with his pointed gestures towards members whom he happened to be discussing, and his little asides, one of which suggested the existence of a hitherto unsuspected fund of humour. Nothing could have been happier or funnier of comedy than his sly hit at the rival attraction of the evening. "My hon. friend," he said, turning to Mr. Courtney, "is a man of eloquence, a man of great sincerity, and of great knowledge." Mr. Courtney held down his head, and blushed, whilst a pleased smile wreathed his lips. These things were true. But truth was not always told in the marketplace. Still gazing upon him, with hand outstretched, with gesture of paternal blessing, Mr. Forster went on to say, "He also believes that he has even more knowledge than he possesses," at which unexpected blow, going straight home to his little foible, the smile faded from Mr. Courtney's lips, and all around the crowded benches up to the galleries where the peers sat the front line of a throng of strangers, a simultaneous hearty burst of laughter filled the House.

Mr. Gladstone, says the same journal, sat on the Treasury Bench through this speech, with head reclining on the back of the bench and eyes closed. Perhaps he was listening, or, peradventure, was meditating on the oddity of the coincidence that in this hour of peril there were ranged against him three old colleagues widely divided on other subjects—Mr. Goschen, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Courtney. Mr. Bright, another of the brilliant fragments which the Ministry has cast off from itself in its comet-like progress, was not present throughout the last night of the debate, as he had spared himself the weariness of the first three nights. But he was not far off, and was careful to be in his place to vote.

There had been much anxiety expressed to hear what Lord Hartington would say, putting in the last words for the Ministry before the inevitable vote was given. But the anxiety seemed to have expended itself in waiting, for when the noble Lord rose members began to stroll out, and the House, crowded whilst Mr. Forster, with every protestation of benevolent intention, was knocking his old colleagues on the head, emptied during his speech and while Lord John Manners, causing some surprise by rising in Sir Stafford's place, in a ten minutes' speech wound up the debate. It was the division members were waiting for, whether impatiently seated in the House, hurrying to and from the lobby where Sir Watkin Wynn sat in his Bath chair waiting to give his vote against the Ministry, or in the library and reading rooms where members toyed with books and papers. Mr. Gladstone had yet left

undone his nightly task of reporting to the Queen a summary account of the proceedings in the House. Here was a favourable opportunity whilst the Speaker read the resolutions, whilst the bells clanged through all the passages, and while members came trooping in till checked at the door by the surging mass they had themselves helped to form. So Mr. Gladstone, taking ink and paper, and carefully selecting a pen, opened his blotting pad on his knee, and began his record.

He seemed, however, speedily to reach that portion of the missive where it would be necessary to know the conclusion of the drama now being enacted before proceeding further. He shut up the letter in the pad, and resting it on his knees, turned and looked with troubled face at the gathering throng at the bar. Mr. Goschen and Mr. Forster earnestly talked together from their corner seats behind the Treasury Bench. The side galleries, ten minutes earlier thronged with members, were now emptied, their occupants streaming down into the narrow passage by the doorway, materially helping to block it up. The sand had run out in the glass on the table, the Speaker was on his feet waiting to put the question, and it was time the doors leading from the lobby were closed. But in vain the attendants tried to do their duty. The dense mass standing at the bar blocked up the passage, so that those struggling in from the lobby could find no room to move. By main force the doors were slowly shut, one excited member losing his hat as he just squeezed through the doorway. He was temporarily parted from his hat by the closed doors. But he had gained his opportunity to vote, and might decide the fortunes of the day.

The Speaker read over again with undiminished emphasis the prodigious sentence in which censure lay hid as it were amid the folds of a wet blanket. There reigned through the crowded house a dead silence, members listening as if they had never before heard the resolution or Mr. Morley's amendment which it was proposed to substitute for it. When the division came Mr. Gladstone went first, carrying his pad with him. Just after he had crossed the gangway on the Ministerial side Mr. Forster and Mr. Goschen stepped down, and, turning to the left, went out to vote for the dismissal of the Government. The Irish members played over again the childish game, not particularly striking when it was invented. They remained seated till the last moment, and then, at a signal, rose with theatrical precision, and marched out to give their solid vote, being received with ironical cheers by the Liberals clustered round the door of the Noes lobby, cheers which they returned with "Yah, yahs" worthy of a tribe of Red Indians. Slowly the two streams returned, one by the doorway under the clock, the other from behind the Speaker's chair. Sir Charles Dilke was, as usual, first to enter, and was presently joined by Mr. Chamberlain, with whom he cheerfully chatted. When Mr. Gladstone arrived he was drawn into the conversation. But it did not seem to suit his mood. He drew a little aside, and, with the blotting pad containing his unfinished letter held with clenched hands on his knee, he sat leaning forward watching the two streams slowly entering from the other side. It seemed a long, long time before the end came. At last Mr. Wynn and Lord Richard Grosvenor were discovered fighting their way through the throng at the bar, and simultaneously Lord Kensington and Mr. Thornhill came at hurried pace from behind the Speaker's chair. The loud murmur of conversation ceased, and amid dead silence the figures were reported to the Clerk. Before the paper was handed out it was known which way the vote had gone, Lord Richard Grosvenor moving to the right, and evidently prepared to take the paper. It was handed to him, and a sudden deafening cheer went up from the Liberal ranks, betokening the deep anxiety with which the issue had been awaited. When the figures were read out showing a majority of fourteen in a House of 590 members, cheers and counter-cheers filled the Chamber. It was only fourteen, but it was safety, and Mr. Gladstone went on writing his interrupted letter, while his supporters began to compare notes and own that they had escaped but by the skin of their teeth.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND ENGLAND.

Prince Bismarck appears to have been greatly irritated by the appearance of the English Blue Books on New Guinea and the Cameroons. In the Reichstag on Monday he made a remarkable attack on recent English diplomacy. He spoke first of the signs of English displeasure:—

"The tone of the English official correspondence with us has certainly become sharper and less friendly under the influence of these German parliamentary proceedings—I leave undecided whether *post hoc* or *propter hoc*. For instance, the letter of the Samoan King to the Emperor was published in the English official collections before the Emperor received it. I do not know how it came into English hands, least of all official hands. Besides, documents of a somewhat confidential nature addressed to us were officially printed in England before we had them. My confidential conferences with the English representative—most confidential, based on many years of personal acquaintance, and naturally intended only for the private use of his Government—were summarised in official documents and printed. All these are tokens of irritation which I consider unjustified, and which I very much regret. Further, this irritation is, unhappily, concentrated against my person, so that in the recent proceedings of the English Parliament Earl Granville expressed himself as if our demands, as presented by me, forced England—but here I must cite the English text—'to abdicate all liberty of action in colonial matters.' The purport of this expression far exceeds the modest proportions of our colonial policy."

Earl Granville, Prince Bismarck continued, had even gone the length of connecting his colonial policy with his attitude on the Egyptian question. He (the Chancellor) was accused of entertaining an unfavourable opinion of England's Egyptian policy out of pique—

"The supposed reason thereof being my personal feeling, owing to England's not following the counsel I had once given concerning Egypt. I regret that my English colleague forces me to contradict his explanation. I never blamed him for the Egyptian

policy of England. I am not in the habit of lightly allowing myself to criticise foreign policies, least of all owing to disregard of my counsel. But I never gave the advice attributed to me by Lord Granville 'to take Egypt.' Earl Granville, even if he believed that this advice concerning Egypt had been given, was in error to make it public.

He next criticised the English method of making diplomatic communications:—

"There is another correction which I consider necessary, and which forces me to say more concerning confidential negotiations than is my custom. I suppose it is known that diplomatic intercourse has of late been preponderantly—rather, I should say, exclusively—carried on by England in the form of written Notes drawn up in London, and then sent hither, where they are signed by the English Ambassador, then handed, or a copy handed, to me, according to the nature of the contents. On the whole, this correspondence is similar to a private one, direct from the writer to the receiver, and it is completely impossible to change anything, making the Ambassador have only the rôle of a messenger. Any other official could do the same, or even the post, with the same security as the Embassy. If this system were suitable our whole costly diplomacy would be superfluous. Then the Postal Union, or my colleague Stephan, could take on his hands the whole diplomatic intercourse."

Verbal communications through the Ambassador were preferable:—

"I have often found it useful for an understanding between two Cabinets, if the expediting of business is intended, to instruct my own representative, first verbally to 'sound' concerning the reception of certain communications. If the result is unfavourable, the matter can be dropped, modified, or, if absolutely necessary, one can say, 'We must do it in any form; you must accept it in any form.' A matter thus led up to is easily settled; whereas, if a ready-written document be handed to the other Government by post it may have for the latter 'thorns' which were not perceived in the writing. An unusually accurate knowledge of the foreign Court and of the leading foreign policy is necessary, or it is impossible to precalculate accurately the effect of written communication. The Ambassador *in loco* is more in a position to decide these things, hence I consider verbal intercourse useful. The English side prefers written."

This practice entailed some inconvenience:—

"Last summer I had the numbers affixed, because there are so very many, and I must answer each such Note personally, watching and examining the composition, which has given me much work. Since last summer we have received 128 of these, containing altogether 700 or 800 pages. We did not receive so much from all the other foreign Governments together in the twenty-three years I have been Foreign Minister. Every nation and Government has the right to do business in the manner it considers useful, but a foreign policy chiefly made up of printed and published Notes, sometimes written in order favourably to influence your own Parliament, entails the danger of writing somewhat to impress Parliament, and not exclusively the foreign Governments."

Prince Bismarck denied that he had offered advice to England about Egypt:—

"I never gave the English Government counsel as to its treatment of Egypt, but rather I was repeatedly asked about it by my late personal and political friend, Lord Ampthill, by order of his Government, and also through our representatives in England. I was frequently asked whether I was inclined to give the English Government any advice or a hint about what they were doing at that time in Egypt. In every instance I answered in the sense of the document of September, 1882, which I have brought with me, that I, as Foreign Minister of Germany, must decline to advise English policy, because such counsel, given officially, involved certain responsibility towards other Cabinets, and therefore had possible consequences."

He admitted that he had stated his views on the subject:—

"I was further asked if I were not inclined to express an opinion as to what could be done. I answered that I was not an English Minister, but that as a dilettante in English politics, an amateur, perhaps a connoisseur in the matter, I had my ideas, and if I were an English Minister I would, for the present, not advise the annexation of Egypt, but that I well understood the necessity of England having a certain secured position in this link between her European and Asiatic establishments. But, according to my opinion, they could gain this secure position only by the help of the Sultan, unless they violated treaties. I therefore, if I were an English Minister, would seek the mediation of the Sultan, and obtain through him a position in Egypt securing English interests."

This would conciliate opposition:—

"I was of opinion that such a course would meet with no opposition from other nations, because it was compatible with treaties, and would induce those principally interested in Egyptian finances, the English, French, and other bondholders, to hope for a sure, regular, and proper administration of Egypt by English agents, thus probably avoiding the provocation of French rivalry or discontent—rather an important point, in view of the extent of French financial interests there. If, on the other hand, England intended a direct annexation of Egypt, rather strained relations might be produced with several European Powers, also interested there, but especially with the Sultan and the whole Mahometan world. This tension, however, would be prevented if the English appeared there in company with the Sultan. My English colleague, perhaps, remembers the English expression I then used, 'The Sultan's leaseholder in Egypt.' By this means they would avoid irritating France and others."

On the importance of a good understanding between England and France the Prince observed:—

"A good Anglo-French understanding is highly desirable, for a breach between these two great nations would be a great calamity for the whole of Europe, but first of all for us, their next neighbours. Hence I regarded as specially valuable the maintenance of good Anglo-French relations. 'If I were an

English Minister,' I said, 'I would follow this course to obtain influence in Egypt.' Then I added, 'But if England prefers to annex Egypt it is not our business to prevent it. English friendship is more valuable to us—I must read slowly because I am translating—'more valuable to us than the future of Egypt. I do not wish to give them advice, but I foresee that for England to annex Egypt would raise great difficulties which she can prevent, or at any rate very much lessen, should she be content to exercise influence in Egypt under Turkish sovereignty.' Then follows the statement of my opinion that the great French financiers would also be satisfied, 'believing that their commercial interests would be cared for as well by the English Administration as by the previous common Administration, and that in the present preponderance of financial interests public opinion in France would perhaps accept even annexation of Egypt, although in this case always some ill-feeling, and uneasiness—it is very difficult to translate these words—'would remain, embittering the relations of both countries, perhaps endangering the future peace.' I therefore did not advise them to take it, but dissuaded from annexation as impracticable as was possible in my neutral position. I added, 'The solution of the question is beyond doubt only England's affair, which we must leave to her alone. But whatever decision England takes we will not oppose it, only we recommend caution and respect for treaties, and for the rights of the Sultan.'

His own aim was peace:—

"I have been forced against my will to make these explanations, in order finally, and once for all, to contradict the insinuations so often made that I had endeavoured for years past to seduce the English Government by dazzling promises of foreign possessions from the path of virtue—(laughter)—and produce confusion in Europe. This is completely incorrect. I gave my opinion only on the express question of what I would do if I were at that moment an English Minister; and further I did it only in the conviction that I could in this way further the aim I always strive for—the procuring and maintaining of peace in Europe. If my counsels had been followed, many complications might have been prevented." (Loud cheers.)

Prince Bismarck, after observing that the causes of English displeasure were, therefore, unreal, though perhaps this displeasure was only apparent, concluded by expressing his conviction that the ill-humour of English Ministers was chiefly caused by the disfavour with which they regard the modest German efforts at colonisation; but he said, "I shall do all in my power—*sine ira et studio*—to bring back in the most conciliatory manner the peaceful and friendly relations that have always existed between England and ourselves, such relations being mutual, because neither has vital interests opposed to the other."

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The majority of 302 who resisted the Vote of Censure moved by Sir Stafford Northcote on Saturday morning was made up of 230 English, 45 Scotch, and 27 Irish members. The minority (288) included 208 English, 69 Irish, and 11 Scotch members. The total number of absentees was 59, of whom 48 represent English or Welsh constituencies, seven Irish, and four Scotch. The following gentlemen classed as Liberals voted in favour of censuring Ministers:—Mr. Courtanah, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Creyke, Mr. Dundas, Mr. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. H. W. Fitzwilliam, Mr. W. J. Fitzwilliam, Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. Goschen, Mr. A. Grey, Mr. Laing, and Mr. Nicholson. Of the 69 Irish members in the minority 41 may be described as followers of Mr. Parnell, and four as more or less independent. Of the 27 Irish members who support the Government 15 were returned as Home Rulers, but have seceded from the "party of action." The Government was in fact saved from defeat by the intervention of the same members who rescued them on the 13th of May last, when the Vote of Censure proposed by Sir Michael Hicks Beach was rejected by a majority of 28 only. The number of official or salaried members in the majority was (exclusive of tellers) 32. No Conservative member could be found to vote confidence in the Government. There were several abstentions from the Liberal ranks.

In the division on Mr. John Morley's amendment to the Vote of Censure 44 Irish members voted in the minority, of whom 41 are Parnellites, one (Mr. O'Connor Power) is a seceder from the body, and two (Mr. A. Moore and Mr. C. Russell) belong to the small and decreasing party of Irish Whigs. Twelve Scotch members supported Mr. Morley, who had for his colleague in "telling" Mr. Courtney, late Financial Secretary to the Treasury. In the third division (Lord G. Hamilton's amendment) 65 Irish members voted, of whom 40 were Parnellites.

It is stated that the members of the Government who were in favour of resigning were Sir William Harcourt, Earl Spencer, the Earl of Derby, and Mr. Chamberlain. It is said, however, that the views at least of two of the Ministers were based on circumstances unconnected with the Vote of Censure, and that in the case of another Minister his opinion rested on the ground that the immediate retirement of the Government would improve the position of the Liberal party.

In view of the strained relations between England and Russia arising out of the advance of the troops of the latter on the Afghan frontier, the Government have resolved not to answer any interpellations that may be addressed to them on the subject in Parliament, except so far as they may relate to accomplished facts.

It has now been definitely settled between the Leaders of the two Parties that there will be no serious alterations in the Redistribution Bill. Some points were left open in order to see what the feeling of the House would be; but the opinion in favour of the Bill is now so general that it has been decided that no amendments on the Bill will be accepted except such as are of a formal and local character.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER, M.P., addressed on Thursday a large open-air mass meeting at Mansfield, the Duke of Portland in the chair. He denounced the Government for having deserted General Gordon and for having alienated all the allies of England, leaving her without an ally in the world.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the Harrow Conservative Association was held at Harrow, in the public hall, with Mr. C. F. Holmes, J.P., in the chair, on Wednesday, when the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—"That the conduct of public affairs by Her Majesty's Ministers renders them unworthy the support of the country and the confidence of the Crown," proposed by Colonel Malleson, C.S.I., seconded by Mr. M. Ansell Day (Chairman of the Hendon Conservative Association), and "That this meeting desires to record its high appreciation of the action of their kinsmen in the Canadian Dominion and in the Australasian colonies in tendering at a critical period of the nation's history their material aid for the defence of the Empire, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the several Agents-General of the Colonies now in London."

The annual banquet of the Primrose League will be held at St. James's Hall on Saturday, April 18. The Marquis of Abergavenny (Grand Councillor of the League), will preside, and many leading members of the Conservative party will attend. It is hoped that Lord Randolph Churchill will be home from India in time to attend, and that he will make his first speech after his absence on the occasion.

The Liberal Four Hundred on Monday at Bradford, for the second time within twelve months, passed a vote of censure upon the senior member of the borough, Mr. W. E. Forster, for speaking and voting against the Government.

A curious instance of the total ingratitude of the present Government to public servants is witnessed (says the *Morning Post*) in the fact that Mr. Clifford Lloyd is to be sent back to Ireland in the subordinate position he held before being made one of the five special magistrates who were appointed at the time the country was on the verge of rebellion. His colleagues have all secured a certain recognition for their services. Mr. Lloyd did invaluable work, and subsequently in Egypt he did his best to serve the Administration which summoned him to important office. For this, instead of reward, he is relegated to a post of inferior consideration to those who were his colleagues some years ago.

Lord WOLVERTON, speaking at a meeting at Gillingham on Wednesday night, expressed the belief that Lord Salisbury would, if he came into power shortly, appeal to the country before the new Franchise Bill came into operation, but he was of opinion that if Lord Salisbury did so it would lead almost to a revolt. His lordship advocated a reform of the land laws. Regarding the House of Lords he suggested that 150 of the ablest of the present House should act as the Second Chamber, and that the others should be qualified as candidates for election to the House of Commons. The election of the members of the Second Chamber could, he suggested, be chosen by county boards.

The following reply has been received by the chairman of the meeting of citizens, held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Thursday last, when it was resolved that Her Majesty's Government had forfeited the confidence of the country:—"20, Arlington-street, S.W., March 2, 1885.—Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge with many thanks your letter, enclosing the resolutions passed in the public meeting of the citizens of London, at the Cannon-street Hotel, and those which have been signed by the leading members of the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's, the Corn Exchange, the Coal Exchange, and our colonial trade. They present a striking expression of the feelings of apprehension and indignation which the conduct of the Government has created in the most influential community in the Empire.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant, SALISBURY. To Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P."

It is stated that an important step has been taken by the Government towards the adoption of Earl Grey's suggestion for the establishment of a Colonial Council of Advice. The Earl of Derby invited the representatives of the different colonies to meet him on Tuesday at the Colonial-office to confer with him on the offers from the colonies of military help in the Sudan.

The *Standard* believes that Prince Bismarck has expressed a wish to come to an understanding in regard to the points now in dispute between the English and German Governments. In order to facilitate an arrangement, Count Herbert Bismarck, the Chancellor's son, has been sent on a special mission to the English Government. Count Herbert Bismarck arrived in London on Wednesday morning, and in the course of the day had an interview with Earl Granville.

The report of the Boundary Commissioners for Ireland has now been issued. It is in the same form as the reports for England, Wales, and Scotland, and constitutes a large Blue-book of 104 pages with thirty-three maps. Thirty-one counties and two boroughs have been divided; one county having seven divisions, eight having four divisions, one having three, and twenty-one being simple cut in two. The towns of Dublin and Belfast have each four divisions. The largest county constituencies now in Ireland are those of county Clare, each of which has more than 70,000 inhabitants, West Clare having 70,888. The smallest are those of county Longford, which are both over 30,000; South Longford, the smallest of the new county divisions, having 30,469 inhabitants. The inequalities in the distribution of electoral power between the various single-member constituencies are therefore somewhat less in Ireland than in England. There is no county division in England with so many inhabitants as there are in each part of county Clare, while no county division in Ireland is so small as the two parts of Belfast are very equal, the largest of the four having 58,043 inhabitants and the smallest 53,427. In the divisions the proportions are much the same, though all the divisions are more populous than in Belfast. The North-west Division of Dublin forms a vast constituency of 72,153 persons, the largest in Ireland, while the South-east Division, the smallest of the four Dublin constituencies, has a population of 66,394. Here, however, as in the counties, the inequalities are not so great as in England, the largest London constituencies having more than 88,000 inhabitants, and the smallest about 43,000.

Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., presided on Wednesday at the house dinner of the Empire Club. In proposing the toast of "Success to the Club," he referred to the

accounts published of the departure of the New South Wales contingent for the Sudan. He said he valued infinitely more than any expressions gentlemen might make about unity and federation an expression so real, so true, and so complete as that which New South Wales had given, and which he believed that every part of this great empire beyond the seas was prepared to give to-morrow. For himself, he expressed deep regret that the offers of the other colonies were not accepted. Our colonial friends and brothers were prepared to bear their full, probably more than their full, share of the struggle in which we are embarked; and he thought it would have been a generous act on our part to have accepted the offer as heartily and as encouragingly as it was tendered. Referring again to federation, Mr. Smith said that Victoria and New South Wales and Canada and New Zealand had interests which were so far apart from each other that they could not be comprehended and understood by each other; and it was ridiculous to attempt to weld the whole together in a symmetrical mass with one Constitution, one Government, and one Parliament. He believed the strength of this empire consisted in the most complete freedom and liberty of action. The toast was responded to by Sir Saul Samuel and Mr. J. H. de Ricci.

At Oxford two Socialist meetings were held last week. The first of these, at which Mr. William Morris, Mr. C. J. Faulkner (a Fellow of University, who on a recent occasion publicly insulted our Lord's Mother), and Dr. Aveling (the well-known infidel lecturer and friend of Bradlaugh) were the speakers, met with much interruption, and was brought to an abrupt and premature conclusion by a bottle of sulphuretted hydrogen. At the second meeting the chair was taken by the Rev. H. Scott-Holland, Canon of St. Paul's, who said that Christianity had become associated in the minds of many with a commercial system which had produced great social evils. Their faith was not bound up with any particular social structure. The Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth then delivered a lecture advocating a graduated income-tax and a heavy tax upon land, with the view of "restoring the possession of it to the people," and generally recommending the appropriation by the State of part of the property of certain classes for the benefit of others.

Further correspondence respecting the affairs of the Transvaal and adjacent territories has been issued embracing despatches bearing dates from the 10th of December last to the 12th ult. In the first despatch, one from Lord Granville to Sir Edward Malet at Berlin, the Foreign Secretary records a conversation he had with Count Münster, who said he had received a letter from Prince Bismarck, in which the Chancellor complained of the conduct of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Samoa, the Cameroons, and Bechuanaland. Lord Granville assured Count Münster that he was prepared to exchange reciprocal assurances for the maintenance of the independence of Samoa and Tonga; that the English expedition to Bechuanaland was in no way connected with the German colonial movement at Angra Pequena; that Her Majesty's Government saw no reason why Germany should not extend the Angra Pequena coast protectorate over as much of Damaraland and Namaqualand as the German Government might think it convenient to have under their control, even as far as the 20th meridian of longitude; and that with respect to the Cameroons Her Majesty's Government had from the first loyally accepted the position which had there been acquired by Germany. The remaining despatches refer to the meetings held in different parts of the Cape Colony on the Ministerial settlement of affairs in Bechuanaland and the murders of Mr. Bethell and Mr. Walker. A request was sent to the War-office on the 29th of January that instructions should be sent to Sir Charles Warren that he might be instructed to proceed in the case of the death of Mr. Walker, as in the case of Mr. Bethell. Sir Charles was allowed the alternative of dealing with the murderers of Mr. Bethell and Mr. Walker, should they fall into his hands, as persons guilty of a civil crime or of a crime against the usages of war.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES.

We are indebted to *Nature* for a report of the President's Anniversary Address to the Anthropological Institute, of which we subjoin a summary:—

In insisting on the fact that certain groups of men are strongly marked from others, the President observed that the Chinaman and the Negro, the native of Patagonia and the Andaman Islander, are as distinct from each other structurally as are many of the so-called species of any group of animals. Nevertheless, the difficulty of parcelling out all the individuals composing the human species into certain definite groups is insuperable. No such classification has ever, or indeed can ever, be obtained. There is not one of the most characteristic forms from which transitions cannot be traced by almost imperceptible gradations to any of the other equally characteristic forms. A large proportion of mankind is made up, not of extremes, but of more or less intermediate forms, the relative numbers of which are continually increasing, as the isolation of races breaks down under intercommunication.

Even in the first step, of establishing certain primary groups, there has been no accord. The number of such groups has been estimated by different writers from two up to sixty or more, although there has always been a tendency to revert to the four primitive types sketched out by Linnaeus—the European, Asiatic, African, and American—expanded into five by Blumenbach by the addition of the Malay, and reduced by Cuvier to three by the suppression of the two last. A perfectly independent study of the subject had led him (Mr. Flower) to the conclusion, so often arrived at and so often abandoned, that the primitive man has in the course of ages divaricated into three extreme types, represented by the Caucasian of Europe, the Mongolian of Asia, and the Ethiopian of Africa, and that all existing individuals can be ranged around these types, or somewhere between them. Large numbers are doubtless the descendants of direct crosses between extreme forms, for there is now abundant evidence of the wholesale production of new races in this way. Others may be the descendants of the primitive stock, before the strongly marked distinctions had taken place. The various groups of mankind, owing to their probable unity of origin, the great variability of individuals, and the

possibility of all degrees of intermixture of races at remote or recent periods, have so much in common, that it is difficult to find distinctive characters capable of strict definition. It is by the preponderance of certain characters in a group that the group as a whole must be distinguished.

The Ethiopian, Negroid or Melanian, or "black" type is characterised by a dark, often nearly black, complexion; black hair, of the kind called "frizzly," a condition always associated with a flattened or elliptical transverse section; a scanty beard; a dolichocephalic (long-headed) skull; small and moderately retreating malar bones (mesopic face); a very broad and flat nose, platyrrhine in the skeleton; moderate or low orbits; prominent eyes; thick, everted lips; prognathous jaws; large teeth (macrodont); a narrow pelvis (index in the male ninety to 100); a long forearm (humero-radial index eighty), and other proportions of the body not yet worked out.

The Mongolian or Xanthous or "yellow" type, have a yellow or brownish complexion; coarse, straight hair, without any tendency to curl, and nearly round in section, on all other parts of the surface except the scalp, scanty and late in appearing; a skull mostly mesocephalic (though extremes both of dolichocephaly and brachycephaly—i.e., long and short heads—are found in certain groups); a broad flat face, with prominent, anteriorly-projecting malar bones (platyrrhine face); nose small, mesorhine or leptorrhine; orbits high and round, with little development of glabella or supraorbital ridges; eyes sunken, and with the aperture between the lids narrow; in the most typical members of the group with a vertical fold of skin over the inner canthus, the outer angle slightly elevated; jaws mesognathous; teeth of moderate size (mesodont). The proportions of the limbs and form of the pelvis have yet to be worked out.

The last type, called Caucasian, or "white," has a light-complexioned skin (although in some aberrant cases it is as dark as in the Negroes); hair fair or black, soft, straight, or wavy, in section intermediate between the flattened and cylindrical form; beard fully developed; form of cranium mostly mesocephalic; malar bones retreating; face narrow and projecting in the middle line (proopic); orbits moderate; nose narrow and prominent (leptorrhine); jaws orthognathous; teeth small (microdont); pelvis broad (pelvic index of male 80); forearm short, relatively to humerus (humero-radial index 74).

In dividing these up into minor groups the distinctions of physical characters are often so slight that other considerations must be taken into account, especially geographical distribution and language.

I. The ETHIOPIAN or Negroid races may be primarily divided as follows:—

A. *African* or typical Negroes—inhabitants of central Africa from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, mixed all along their northern frontier with Hamitic and Semitic Melanochroi, a mixture which has given rise to many of the races of the Soudan.

A branch of the Negroes are the *Bantu*—distinguished chiefly by the structure of their language. Physically indistinguishable from other negroes, the Southern Bantu, or Kaffirs, are lighter in colour, have a larger cranium, less marked prognathism, and smaller teeth. Some of these changes may possibly be due to crossing.

B. The *Hottentots* and *Bushmen* formerly inhabited a large district; but, encroached upon by the Bantu from the north and the Dutch and English from the south, are threatened with extinction. The *Hottentots* are much mixed up with other races, and under the influence of civilisation have lost many of their distinctive peculiarities. When pure-bred they are of moderate stature, with a yellowish-brown complexion and very frizzly hair, less abundant than that of the ordinary negro, and having the appearance of growing in separate tufts. The forehead and chin are narrow, and the cheek bones wide, giving a lozenge shape to the face. The nose is very flat and the lips prominent. In almost everything except size, the *Bushmen* agree with the *Hottentots*; while, however, they are the most platyrrhine of races, the prognathism so characteristic of the negro type is nearly absent. This, however, may be the retention of an infantile character so often found in diminutive races, as in all the smaller species of a natural group of animals. The cranium of a Bushman could not be mistaken for that of any other. *Bushmen* stand towards the *Hottentots*, however, as outcasts living the lives of the most degraded savages among caves and mountains.

Perhaps the *Negrillos* of Hamy, a diminutive round-headed people of Central and Western Equatorial Africa, represent a distinct branch, but they are few, and much mixed with the true Negroes. They form the only exceptions to the general dolichocephaly of the African Negroes.

C. *Oceanic Negroes*, or *Melanesians*, include the Papuans and most of the islanders of the Western Pacific, and form also a substratum of the population of other regions.

They are represented by the extremely dolichocephalic Kai Colos, or mountaineers of the Fiji Islands, although the coast population have lost their distinctive characters by crossing. In New Guinea and the islands eastwards and southwards to New Caledonia, they are found in a pure condition, especially in the more inaccessible regions. They show special modifications of the type in details of structure. Their chief distinction from the African Negroes lies in the development of the glabella and supra-orbital ridges in the males, which are in Africans smooth and flat. The nose especially in northern New Guinea is narrower (often mesorhine) and prominent. The cranium is generally higher and narrower. Yet African and Melanesian skulls are often found alike in essential characters.

The extinct Tasmanians were probably a pure, but aberrant, members of the Melanesian group, and had undergone modifications by long isolation. Lying out of the track of commerce, even of the most primitive kind, they were not influenced by any other race. They were even exaggeratedly Negroid in the form of nose, projection of mouth, and size of teeth, typically so in hair, and aberrant chiefly in width of skull in the parietal region. A cross with any Polynesian or Malay race sufficiently strong to produce this would, in all probability, have also left some other traces. Yet in many parts of Melanesia there are evidences of admixture with Negrito, Malay, and Polynesian elements. In New Guinea this can be traced. In Micronesia and New Zealand the Melanesian element is overlaid by the Polynesian;

but there are few of the Pacific islands in which it does not form a factor in the character of the natives.

The Australians have long puzzled ethnologists, being of Negroid complexion, features, and skeletal characters, yet without frizzly hair. Probably they are not a distinct race, but a cross between two branches of the primitive stocks. Australia was perhaps originally peopled with frizzly-haired Melanesians, such as those which recently dwelt in the islands on the north, east, and south; but a strong infusion of a low form of Caucasian Melanochroi, such as that found in the interior of southern India, has spread from the north-west; modifying the character, especially of the hair. This influence did not extend into Tasmania, where the Melanesian element remained in its purity. It is more strongly marked in northern and central Australia than on the southern and western coasts, where we find lowness of type and curly, sometimes almost frizzly, hair. If this view prove well-founded, it will be incorrect to speak of a primitive Australian, or even Australoid type. Proof of the origin of such a race is, however, very difficult to obtain, and there is a possibility of the Australians being directly descended from a very primitive human type, from which the frizzly-haired Negroes may be an offshoot. This character of hair must be a specialisation, for it seems very unlikely that it was the attribute of common ancestors of the human race.

D. The diminutive round-headed people called *Negrillos* are still found in an unmixed state in the Andaman Islands, and form a substratum of the population, though now greatly mixed with Malays, in the Philippines and many of the islands of the Indo-Malayan Archipelago, and perhaps of some parts of the southern portion of the mainland of Asia. In New Guinea they appear to merge into the taller, long-headed and long-nosed Melanesians proper. They exhibit the Negro type in the frizzly hair, proportions of limbs, especially the humero-radial index, and form of pelvis; but differ in many cranial and facial characters, both from the African and the Oceanic Negroes, or Melanesians, and form a distinct group.

OXFORD, PAST AND PRESENT.

The Dean of Chichester has sent to the *Pall Mall Gazette* a rejoinder to the paper contributed by Mr. J. W. Mackail, of Balliol. After pointing out that the heavy indictment he had brought against the Oxford University Commission of 1880—that they had de-Christianised Oxford—had been left unanswered, the Dean says:—

In other respects Mr. Mackail seems rather bent on showing that I have considerably understated the recent mischief. He announces that "the period of transition is a long way from being over;" that changes are taking place in Oxford with "bewildering rapidity;" that peace, the indispensable condition of study and culture, "is gone, and is hardly likely to return." He recognises "a declension of manners," and declares that "the opportunities for leisure and study" are growing less and less. Whereas, last year, young ladies were only admitted to university examinations, they are now (Mr. Mackail says) "admitted to college lectures, and the principle of mixed classes has been conceded." Already, in his view, the colleges rather resemble "small factories" than exhibit the ancient type of an extension of the family. The college system is "crumbling away" under the innovation of "married Fellows." We are invited to look forward to a time "when the teaching staff of the University will live in the parks, and the Colleges will become little more than clubs for the Fellows and boarding-houses for the Undergraduates." By an oversight on the part of those who revolutionised Oxford, the startling discovery is now being made that married Fellows require a larger income than unmarried Fellows. We are taught in consequence to expect to see the increased university revenues (revenues which have been obtained by subsidising the colleges) doled out in establishing a set of useless readerships and professorships of £300 a year—every one of which arrangements, anywhere but in Oxford, would be called a "job."

But how about the essential question—the secularisation, namely, of college revenues and the de-Christianising of our institutions? "In the slow separation between Church and State" (Mr. Mackail informs us) "the Universities have had to go with the State; or rather the view has gained predominance that Education and Religion had best be dealt with separately." "Have had to go with;" "the view has gained predominance;" "education and religion" are best "dealt with separately." And does Mr. Mackail really suppose that in this summary manner the pious striving of five hundred years is to be disposed of? "But" (Mr. M. breaks off) "who founded Keble? If, instead of moaning over the spirit of irreligion in Oxford, the Church would only turn to more practical measures, they have wealth enough and influence enough to found a dozen Kebles, and make them as exclusive as they please." In other words, Mr. Mackail says to Churchmen, "If you desire to see education based on religion; desire to see the youth of England Christianly brought up; desire that candidates for the ministry shall enjoy the encouragement which Fellowships provide for the cultivation of sacred learning—why do you not build, found, endow, two dozen colleges where the thing may be done?"

The *nativité* of this would be diverting were the issues at stake less solemn, the insolence of the proposal less palpable. But (we reply) the Oxford of the past was the slow creation of half-a-thousand years. We were already in the lawful enjoyment of all we wanted, were able to produce a title to our inheritance five hundred years old—it was, in a word, our own—when your friends took it all away from us by Act of Parliament. Imagine yourself the possessor of a fair estate which had belonged to your family before the House of Commons came into being—an estate of which the revenues all down the ages had been dispensed on the most beneficent principles—an estate which was admitted on all hands to have proved an unmixed blessing to the commonwealth. Imagine yourself suddenly dispossessed of all this by dynamite—or by any other instrument of violence. You survey with sorrow your devastated ancestral home—your violated, your utterly ruined hearth—and are jauntily told by a bystander, "If you desire a park, and in the midst of it a residence for your family, why do you not go and purchase for yourself

the first, and set about building for yourself the second?" The cases are strictly parallel.

I have complained bitterly that whereas the Colleges of Oxford, besides being ecclesiastical foundations and essentially religious in their character, were endowed expressly for the benefit of the poor, Oxford has been converted into a University for the rich. College endowments are demonstrably even eleemosynary in their founders' intention; but the recent legislation has done its best to obliterate this, their characteristic feature. Scholarships are now the prizes for which the sons of rich men, fresh from our public schools, compete. Untrained Poverty, with equal or with better abilities, has not a chance of success in such a race. But, waiving this, I at least insist that a grievous wrong is done to Poverty by making education in any single college of Oxford practically impossible to one who, let his natural endowments and aspirations be what they may, is absolutely without fortune. And what says Mr. Mackail in reply? "For the highest possible education it is reasonable that a high price should be paid." Not (I answer) if endowments have been left in trust expressly in order to make the highest possible education cheap. In such case, to claim "a high price" is worse than unreasonable; it is simply a dishonest proceeding.

But this is not nearly all. "The colleges (we are informed) find it very hard to make both ends meet. Agricultural depression has hit them hard. In order to keep working at all they have (like their landlords) to supplement agriculture by commerce, and make a profit off their undergraduates." An avowal so damaging to the Commissioners' recent policy of robbery and confiscation I never expected to meet with; least of all in a deliberate apology for the Oxford of "the Present." No "other landlord" (I reply), in times of depression, squanders £130,000 in building a sumptuous edifice which he does not in the least require, nor contributes £10,000 for a purpose the very name of which would be a disgrace to him were he as rich as Croesus, nor sets about contriving annuities of £300 a year for his already sufficiently well-off relations. These are the precious results of recent University reforms.

In laying down my pen I take leave to invite attention to the sentiment expressed on this subject by one of the most faithful as well as most thoughtful of Oxford's sons. Referring to the "Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the Constitution and Course of Nature," the late Dean Mansel, at the close of the preface to his Bampton Lectures, declares "that he would be wanting in his duty to the University were he to hesitate to declare his deep-rooted and increasing conviction that sound religious philosophy will flourish or fade within her walls according as she perseveres or neglects to study the works and cultivate the spirit of her great son and teacher, Bishop Butler." Mr. Gladstone (whose name will command more attention in certain quarters than that of Dean Mansel), considered in 1853 "that the loss of four colleges would be less than that of the 'Analogy,'" and yet, within the last few years Butler's great work, which used to be required of all who aspired to honours at Oxford, has been deliberately excluded from the University curriculum. May I not, at parting with the subject, be allowed to lay my finger on this as one more heavy charge against the Oxford of "the Present," as compared with Oxford of "the Past"?

SHORTSIGHTEDNESS.

Lord Rayleigh has been writing to *Nature* with reference to the recent remarks of the eminent oculist, Mr. Brudenell-Carter, on the increase of shortsightedness and the superiority of the eyesight of savages. Lord Rayleigh questions whether the eyes of savages, "merely as optical instruments," are greatly superior to our own; and suggests that any superiority which savages possess may depend upon "attention and practice in the interpretation of minute indications." He explains that "the resolving power of an optical instrument is limited by its aperture," and then proceeds as follows:—"With a given aperture no perfection of execution will carry the power to resolve double stars, or stripes alternately dark and bright, beyond a certain point, calculable by the laws of optics from the wave-length of light. With sufficient approximation we may say that a double star cannot be fairly resolved unless its components subtend an angle exceeding that subtended by the wave-length of light at a distance equal to the aperture. If we take the aperture of the eye as one-fifth of an inch, and the wave-length of light as 1-40,000th of an inch, this angle is found to be about two minutes; and we are forced to the conclusion that there is no room for the eye of the savage to be much superior in resolving power to those of civilised physicists, whose powers approach at no great distance the theoretical limit as determined by the aperture."

To this Mr. Brudenell-Carter replies as follows:—"Assuming the civilised man and the savage to have eyes of precisely equal optical value, the latter might yet possess an acuteness of vision greatly in excess of that of the former; and this excess might be due to conditions of the perceptive elements of the retina which, in the case of the savage, permitted the optical powers to be utilised to the fullest extent. The savage might have greater sensitiveness to variations of light, greater sensitiveness to colour, and acuteness of vision over a larger retinal area. All these advantages might be conferred by better formation or higher development of the retina, and such higher development might at once be promoted by exercise and handed down by descent. I support the 'commonly-received view' that the vision of savages is more acute than that of the civilised men, because this view seems to me to be established by abundant testimony, and to be in perfect harmony with physiological knowledge. I feel very strongly that the conditions of town life are unfavourable to the evolution of the eye and favourable to its involution or degradation; and I believe that a moderate amount of attention might greatly modify these conditions, and might do for the eyes what is done by athletic games and exercises for the muscles."

MONEY SAVED.—Adopt Chappuis' Daylight Reflectors, to supersede gas or lamp light during the day. They are universally used, from gentlemen's houses to workmen's shops or dwelling-places.—(J.B.) Chappuis, patentee, 69, Fleet-street, London.

KASSALA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

A very interesting description of Kassala is given in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the authority of Mr. Schreiber, who spent some years in the country between Massowah and Khartoum, having accepted office as a topographical draughtsman in a geographical expedition sent out by Ismail, the ex-Khedive, to Massowah, Kassala, and Khartoum in the year 1875—that is, at the same time General Gordon was serving in Egypt as Governor-General of the Soudan. "At that time," says Mr. Schreiber, "Egypt had declared war against the Abyssinians. Having already appropriated Bogos and Kassala, she was desirous of wresting further provinces from the luckless Abyssinians. Our expedition went out 7,000 strong, under the command of General Loring and Colonel Lockett, to fortify Massowah, Kassala, and all the advantageous positions. Kassala is about half way between Massowah and Khartoum, the whole distance being something like three hundred miles. After leaving Massowah the country opens out into a desert, with a high range of Abyssinian mountains in full view. The mountains appear to be only three or four miles distant, but in reality they are between fifteen and sixteen miles away. The first important village passed is Hotoumlou, which contains one remarkable inhabitant named Hassan, a native of Germany, who possesses great influence in the district, and rejoices in the possession of a wife who is an Abyssinian Princess. Further on is Mackoulou, which is a camp of Egyptian artillery and a depot for mules and horses. After leaving Mackoulou the route lies through Keren (Bogos), a province wrested from Abyssinia by the Egyptians, in 1873, after some sharp fighting. Here the country is pleasant and romantic; vegetation in the shape of trees and bushes is plentiful, and many gazelles, wild hogs, large flocks of Guinea fowls, &c., can be met with. The country is mountainous, and the best and safest travelling is along the dried-up ravines or "wadys." From Massowah to Keren is about sixty or sixty-five miles, and the journey takes four or five days. Keren was partly fortified and garrisoned by 200 or 300 Egyptian infantry, but the garrison has been taken away by Mason Bey, and transferred to Massowah; the population is almost entirely Abyssinian. Leaving Keren, which is in the midst of high mountains, for Kassala, the travelling is sometimes very pleasant, at others monotonous and troublesome. The mountain passes are in some places very steep, and the whole country possesses a wild, romantic aspect. This is the region where many of the wild animals are caught to supply the zoological gardens of the world. After being collected at Kassala they are sent on to Souakim, where a Mr. Soroker receives and ships them for the European market. From Keren to Kassala is a distance of 150 to 160 miles, and with a few exceptions the inhabitants are inhospitable and bitterly antagonistic to the Egyptians. To travel without revolvers and trustworthy guides is out of the question.

"Kassala is situated upon a high hill, and surrounded by deep gorges on three sides. It is approached through deep mountain passes, and as shown in this rough sketch, which I made on the spot, very little of the place can be seen as you draw near to it, in consequence of its peculiar position. It is fortified more by nature than by art. The entrance from Keren is very steep, and overgrown with large bushes, and the place itself looks anything but inviting. There is the inevitable guard and toll house, a native cemetery, four or five thousand inhabitants—Abyssinians, Egyptians, Nubians, and a few Greeks—and there you are. The place is considered to be very unhealthy, and no European would care to drink the water of Kassala, as, even after being filtered, it has a most abominable smell. There is a small river on one side of the town, which in the rainy season winds its way through some ravines, and rises to a considerable height, but soon after the rainy season the river dries up and remains dry for months. The surrounding country is well cultivated with durra and other products. The market-place is simply a narrow lane with rows of low shops. Everything is very cheap there, however, and especially leopard skins and ostrich eggs. I have often purchased fresh ostrich eggs for 1s. each, and one is enough to make a good pancake meal for three men. Many gazelles and antelopes are brought into Kassala, and young cubs of lions and leopards can also be obtained. So there is a charming variety in the Kassala market, you see. The inhabitants drink a good deal of Abyssinian beer, a decoction made from honey, but I never found it very palatable myself.

"The garrison, at the time I was there, consisted of 300 or 400 men [it is given in the Egyptian Blue-books now as about 1,200], of whom many were blacks, and others mounted Bashi-Bazouks, of different nationalities. The view from Kassala is very striking. As I have said, high mountains surround it on three sides, and in the direction of Khartoum it opens out into the desert, which stretches away for many, many miles. Before you go, let me tell you of a very impressive sight we saw near Kassala. We were riding on mules, and toiling up a mountain side about two days' journey from the town, when on arriving at the summit we saw in the valley what we believed to be a snowstorm. We were presently undeceived, however, for the strange phenomenon turned out to be a great cloud of locusts settling down there. Not a leaf, not a spot, but what was covered with them in a very short time, and every bit of vegetation was destroyed for miles round. The sight was pretty enough from a traveller's point of view, but it was regarded as a very serious and undesirable one by the natives, I can assure you. The garrison at Kassala must have been strongly reinforced by regiments returning from the Abyssinian war, when Kassala, Keren, and Massowah were all in great danger, and it has probably remained so ever since, and that would account for the much larger number of troops mentioned in the Blue-book. At the time I was there Mustapha Bey was governor of the town and commandant of the garrison. He was a rough old Turkish colonel, who looked a soldier every inch of him, and was ready for any tough fighting. My stay in Kassala was neither very long nor very pleasing, but my chief objection to the place was the abominable water, for as soon as you taste that you are inspired with a burning desire to get miles away."

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Anti-Dyspeptic Cocoa or Chocolate Powder.

GUARANTEED PURE SOLUBLE COCOA. WITH THE

EXCESS OF FAT EXTRACTED.

THE FACULTY pronounce it "the most nutritious, perfectly

digestible beverage for BREAKFAST, LUNCH, or

SUPPER, and invaluable for invalids and children."

Slightly commended by the entire Medical Press.

Being without sugar, spice, or other admixture, it suits all

palates, keeps for years in all climates, and is four times the

strength of cocoa thickeners yet WEAKENED with starch, &c. and IN REALITY CHEAPER, than such mixtures, made instan-

taneously with boiling water, a teaspoonful to a Breakfast

Cup costing less than a halfpenny.

Adopted as a Medical comfort in the Royal Navy.

COCOATINA A LA VANILLE is the most delicate, diges-

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In tins at 1s. 6d., 2s., 3s. 6d., &c. By Chemists and Grocers.

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IMPROVED JANUS CORD (Registered).

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13 guineas the full dress length.

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EVENING DRESSES.—Two Guineas and

Two and a Half Guineas each, with sufficient material

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THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF ST. PATRICK.

Under the Patronage of Her MAJESTY and H.R.H. the Prince of WALES.

The 102nd ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of this Society will be celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1885.

The Earl Cowper, K.G., in the Chair.

VICAR PRESIDENTS.

The Archbishop of Dublin.
The Earl of Devon.
The Earl of Lisle, K.P.
The Earl of Milltown.
The Earl of Normanton.
The Earl of Portarlington, K.P.
The Viscount Bangor.
The Viscount Hardinge.
The Lord Brasenose.

STEWARDS.

The Hon. Hamilton Cuffe.
Colonel the Hon. C. H. Lind.
Sir C. B.
Sir F. E. Skipwith, Bart.
Sir R. Wallace, Bart, K.C.B., M.P.
Admiral Sir Lewis Jones, G.C.B.
Sir E. W. Stafford, K.C.M.G.
Admiral Sir F. L. M. Clintock.
Sir Edward Coey.
Captain C. F. C. Beresford, R.E.
Wm. H. Brereton, Esq.
Charles Butler, Esq.
Eugene Collins, Esq., M.P.
R. T. Cooper, Esq., M.A., M.D.

CHAM. BRINSLEY MARLEY, Esq., Treasurer.

The musical arrangements will be under the direction of Mr. Lawler.

Dinner on Table at Half-past Six for Seven o'clock punctually.

Tickets, 21s. each, to be had at the Freemasons' Tavern, and at the Schools, 61, Stamford-street, Blackfriars-road.

The Children (450) dine at the Schools at One o'clock on March 17, when the Committee will be happy to receive any visitors.

Special SUBSCRIPTIONS are earnestly SOLICITED to meet a large deficiency in the Society's funds.

A. E. KING, Secretary.

CITY OF LONDON TRUSS SOCIETY,

35, FINESBURY SQUARE.

Patron—H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.
President—The Right Hon. LORD EBBURY, F.C.
Treasurer—John Norbury, Esq.

The SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL will take place at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday, April 22nd, 1885.

The Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR in the Chair.

Noblemen and gentlemen may be invited to act as stewards or otherwise be invited to communicate with the Secretary at the Institution.

Since the establishment in 1807, this important charity has relieved over 400,000 of the distressed poor in the United Kingdom (men, women, and children).

Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Society's Bankers, Lloyds, Barnet, and Bosanquet's Bank (Limited), No. 73, Lombard-street, and by the Secretary, at 35, Finesbury-square.

JOHN WHITTINGTON, Secretary.

CITY OF LONDON TRUSS SOCIETY,

35, FINESBURY SQUARE.

For the Relief of the Distressed Poor throughout the Kingdom.

Established 1807.

Patron—H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.

The importance of this Charity to the suffering poor of both sexes and all ages may be gathered from the fact that 388,000 have been already relieved.

The proportion of aggravated cases to simple cases is larger than it was formerly; hence more expensive instruments are required, greater cost is entailed, and increased Funds are needed. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, and Co., 73, Lombard-street, E.C.; and by the Secretary, at the Institution, 35 Finesbury-square.

JOHN WHITTINGTON, Secretary.

ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

Established 1757.

PATRON: HER MAJESTY the QUEEN.

For delivering poor lying-in women at their own homes in all parts of London, marriage and necessity the only tests of eligibility.

More than 2,000 poor women were attended last year in their hour of trial by first-rate physicians and midwives.

DONATIONS will be THANKFULLY RECEIVED by Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co.; or at the Charity's House, 31, Finesbury-square, by

J. W. LONG, Secretary.

31, Finesbury-square, London.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.

—Site for New Building, Kingsland-road.—FUNDS urgently NEEDED for building and general purposes. Bankers Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co., 67, Lombard-street. Temporary premises, 61, Commercial-street, E.

GEO. CROXTON, Secretary.

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WOODSIDE, CROYDON.

FOUNDED 1872.

For the SONS of Professional Men and Clergymen requiring assistance.

Age of Admission, 6 to 9 years. Fees 5 guineas quarterly.

For infants and for very young children there is a nursery connected with the Orphanage.

The School is under Government Inspection, H.M. Inspector, in his Report for 1884, says:—

"The boys have passed a highly successful examination as well in the elementary subjects as in geography and grammar. Poetry is repeated correctly, and in some instances with spirit and expression. Elementary magnetism has been very carefully taught, and is remarkably well answered. In singing the school maintains its pre-eminence. Exercises in military drill are well performed. The boys are under admirable discipline, attentive to their work, well behaved, and happy."

Latin is taught by an University man.

The boys are allowed to spend the first fortnight in August with their friends.

For Admission and further particulars apply to the Rev. the Chaplain, The Orphanage, Woodside, Croydon.

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An Appeal to Thinking Men.

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PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).

HOLBORN-BARS, LONDON.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1884.

The Directors have much pleasure in presenting their Report and accounts for the year 1884.

The funds have been increased during the year by the sum of £282,000; namely, the Ordinary Branch £150,000, and the Industrial Branch £132,000, raising the total assets of the Company to £4,711,464.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

The new business of this branch for the year consists of 11,823 policies, assuring the sum of £1,360,361, and producing a new annual premium income of £258,500. The premium of the year are £238,808, being an increase of £45,691 over the year 1883. The total increase for the first three years of the quinquennial is £97,411.

The claims of the year amount to £115,474. The number of deaths was 644, and 45 endowment assurances matured.

The rate of expenditure of the branch slightly exceeds 10 per cent. on the premium income. The number of policies in force in this branch is 51,325.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

The premiums received during the year are £2,644,516, being an increase of £140,308. The claims of the year amount to £1,003,272. The number of deaths was 136,568. The number of policies in force in this branch is 6,300,500.

The total expenditure of the branch shows a reduction in the rate of expenditure of fully 2 per cent. on the premium income.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED) ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1884.

LIABILITIES.

Shareholders' capital £20,028 0 0

Ordinary branch funds 1,515,272 12 8

Industrial branch funds 3,285,226 18 0

Claims under life policies admitted 21,028 5 8

£4,711,464 16 4

ASSETS.

British Government (£250,000 Consols Securities) £780,423 1 9

Metropolitan Board of Works Stock, City of London Corporation Bonds, and loans on Municipal and other rates 1,239,577 0 0

Freehold ground rents and Scotch feu duties 245,621 14 5

Mortgages 600,577 1 4

Indian, colonial, and foreign Government securities 55,000 2 8

Reversions 145,423 7 11

Railway and other debentures 307,550 10 7

Railway and other shares 30,467 14 10

Freehold and leasehold property 407,004 16 8

Loans on the Company's policies 45,571 17 2

Furniture and fittings 23,000 0 0

Loans upon personal security 807 16 8

Outstanding premiums, agents' balances, and cash in hands of superintendents 151,317 12 10

Outstanding interest and rents 55,990 2 2

Cash—on deposit, on current account, and in hand 94,074 16 8

£4,711,464 16 4

EDGAR HORNE, Chairman.

HENRY HARRIS, THOS. C. DEWEY, WILLIAM HUGHES, W. J. LANCASTER, Secretaries.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Authorised Capital, £3,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £3,000,000. Paid-up Capital, £252,000.

RESOURCES OF THE COMPANY as at 31st December, 1883.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Net Premiums received during the year 1883, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to £1,107,745 9s. 6d.

The Net Losses by Fire during the year were, after deducting re-insurances, £472,825 12s. 10d.

This embraces not merely all losses actually ascertained and paid, but a full estimate of all claims that had arisen prior to 31st December.

The Fire Funds, after payment of the Dividend and Bonus aftermentioned, and irrespective of the Paid-up Capital, are as follows:—

Reserve £1,170,000 0 0

Premium Reserve 500,545 9 11

Balance of Profit and Loss Accounts 55,990 15 8

£1,696,535 9 9

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

504 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring

The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of £214,519 0 0

The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 295 in number, arising under 307 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-insurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to 246,122 4 4

The income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to 471,407 15 7

In the Annuity Branch 53 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £2,500 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of 50,500 11 0

The Life Fund, now amounts to 3,240,918 11 0

The Annuity Fund now amounts to 500,575 17 11

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—THE PRINCIPLES on which this Company was founded, and on which it continues to act, combine the system of Mutual Assurance with the safety of a large Protecting Capital and Accumulated Funds. NINETY PER CENT. OF THE WHOLE PROFITS is divided among the Assured on the Participating Scale. The PROFITS are divided

But there is another source of anxiety, even graver in its possible results than our position in the Soudan. We have ourselves never ceased to point to its existence, even at the time when we had little thought to spare from Gordon and Khartoum. The serious danger that now menaces the Empire, though not unforeseen, has come upon the country with a suddenness which may well have taken even the much-abused "Alarmists" by surprise. The advances of Russia in Central Asia have for years been watched with the gravest attention in this country. It is just a year since her seizure of Merv confirmed the predictions of those who had seen in her previous movements a steady purpose of advancing on Herat. Arrived thus at length at the confines of Afghanistan, Russia stood face to face with England. British statesmen of either political party have always recognised the fact that Russia would some day seize Herat if she could, and that she would then command the road to India; and therefore it has always been understood that England, for the sake of India, must guarantee the integrity of Afghanistan—that, in fact, for all practical purposes the Afghan frontier is the Indian frontier, and must at all costs be maintained intact to the utmost of British power. Hence the arrangement concluded last year with Russia that the two Governments should appoint a joint Commission for the exact delimitation of the frontier between the Russian Turkomans and Afghanistan. The British Commissioner has for many months awaited at the frontier the arrival of his Russian colleague, who, however, has never yet appeared. The purpose of the long delay is now placed beyond all doubt. The Russians have steadily continued their advance, and now occupy several positions within the very territory which the British Government declares to be in dispute. From the statements made in Parliament this week it appears that the Government of the Czar declines to withdraw from these positions. Probably the efforts of the British Cabinet are now directed to inducing the Russians to refrain from making any farther advance now that they have reached the frontier-line which they themselves propose. Whether they will do so remains to be seen, though it is stated that at an interview which the Russian Ambassador had with Mr. GLADSTONE on Thursday the most pacific assurances were proffered. The immediate question, however, is whether Russia will demand, as the price of her staying where she is (for the present, at any rate) that the British Government shall suspend all military preparations to resist her. That is how the matter stands now. The firm attitude presented by the Government is satisfactory as far as it goes; but their own bungling has largely deprived them of the means of enforcing their views. Here, again, we see what comes of quarrelling with Germany.

As if it were not sufficient for us to have troubles with Russia and troubles in the Soudan on our hands, we find ourselves brought into a most uncomfortable state of tension as regards our relations with Germany. Prince BISMARCK, who has more and more of late posed as the arbiter of Europe, has declared strongly against England—at least against the England of Mr. GLADSTONE. Though we do not for one moment advocate the view that it is for any foreign Prince or potentate to dictate to us our policy abroad, or to interfere with our government at home, we cannot but contrast the feeling of respect and regard with which the German despot regarded the Ministry of Lord BEACONSFIELD with the feeling of contempt and dislike with which he regards the Ministry of Mr. GLADSTONE. While we are not dependent on foreign allies for our position in Europe, we cannot look with equanimity on the isolation which has resulted from the mistakes upon mistakes which have characterised the tenure of office of our present rulers. A little less of shuffle and evasion on their part, a little more belief on the part of foreign nations that they meant what they said, a little less of hand-to-mouth policy at home, a little more of backbone in dealing with questions of policy abroad, might have made all the difference. In the immediate questions in dispute between England and Germany at the present moment there is every reason to believe that, despite the blundering manner in which our Foreign Office has contrived to put us apparently in the wrong, we are in reality in the right. The suppressed despatch to which Prince BISMARCK now appeals is a device better worthy of a Venetian diplomatist in old days than of a German diplomatist who professes to pride himself on his frankness. The system of publicity which is inevitable in countries where Parliamentary

institutions exist is without doubt fatal to anything like delicate handling of international questions, and that freedom and unreserve which ought to attend the verbal communications between Ambassadors and the Ministers of the Courts to which they are accredited can no longer be maintained if conversations as well as despatches are made public property.

Meanwhile Count HERBERT BISMARCK has been sent by his father on one of those unofficial missions which are so puzzling to outsiders. Whether he has come to enforce the pacific views of the league of the three Emperors, as some maintain, or to explain, as others believe, that Count MÜNSTER made a mistake in not communicating the despatch to Lord GRANVILLE which the CHANCELLOR says he sent to London, but which the COURT could hardly have presented without immediately sending in his own resignation; whether he is the dove with the olive branch or the raven to croak forth "Nevermore" to the English alliance; whether he comes on English invitation to smooth down matters, or to announce, with more or less of the paternal brusqueness than the Ambassador possesses, fresh colonial aggressions by Germany, are secrets into which the outside world are not admitted. It is certainly significant that he should have left Berlin just after his father's anti-English outburst, and that news should arrive almost at the same time as he does that the German EMPEROR has granted a charter to a company of merchant-adventurers who claim to have a concession about the size of Prussia itself between Zanzibar and Lake Tanganyika. One thing we may hope, that no paternal partiality may lead to his being confronted by his English namesake. Our HERBERT would fare as badly in any dealings with the COURT as our HERBERT's father has done in his dealings with the CHANCELLOR.

We were enabled in our last number to announce the result of the debate in both Houses on the Vote of Censure, though that result reached us too late to be fully discussed. It is perhaps, therefore, not outside the history of the present week to call attention to the lessons of the division. The Government were doubtless prepared to be beaten in the Upper House, but the very large majority against them, containing as it did many Liberal Peers, must have been somewhat of an unpleasant surprise. That majority represents, we believe, more correctly the general feeling of the country than the majority the other way in the House of Commons. Indeed, when we remember what the normal majority of the Ministry in the Lower House is, and compare it with that which after the most strenuous efforts on the part of the Liberal Whips they succeeded in rallying around their discredited banner, their victory resembles strongly that of PYRRHUS. We are quite ready to admit that too much weight must not be accorded—indeed that no weight ought to be accorded—to the solid Irish vote, given as it was on no other principle than that of causing inconvenience and annoyance to the powers that be, without any question whether those powers are Liberal or Conservative. But even putting aside the Irish phalanx, the result showed a sufficient defection on the part of Ministerial supporters to cause the victory to be regarded as little better than a defeat.

It cannot, therefore, be matter of surprise that the Cabinet Council which assembled on Saturday debated long and anxiously on the course to be followed on the result of Friday night's division. The historian of the future will have, doubtless, much to tell about that debate when the private papers of the various members of the Cabinet who took part in it are made public, as in these modern days all papers are bound to be sooner or later. We of this generation know nothing but the result, which was in favour of the retention of office by a discredited Government in the face of a divided House of Commons. As far as the Conservative party is concerned we have no ground of quarrel with that decision. The Government are the best judges of what they deem in accordance with their own honour, and there is no desire on our part to succeed to such a heritage of woe as would have been left by them had they resigned office. At the same time the straightforward and manly words of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, who announced that if they should retire the Conservative party were fully prepared to accept the responsibility of succeeding to that heritage, must be taken as conveying not merely his own feeling, but also that of those among whom he sits.

Rumours, of course, have floated about as to the division of opinion among the various

members of the Cabinet, which rendered necessary so long a sitting on Saturday before they could arrive at any conclusion. It was obviously not merely the question of the Soudan, not merely the question of the narrow majority, mainly composed of their own votes, by which they had been absolved from the charges of fatuous incompetence and unpardonable neglect of duty underlying the moderate language of Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOOTE's resolution which caused their hesitation. That they should, in the presence of existing complications, cling with all the desperation of drowning men to the Treasury Bench, rather than make way for a Conservative Administration, has this small compensation, at all events. Such an Administration would, in dealing with those complications, have to face not only the enemies of England abroad, but also her enemies at home, set free from the trammels and responsibilities of office and prepared to embark once again on a series of Midlothian campaigns. Mr. GLADSTONE at Downing-street, mischievous as he is in that position, is possibly less dangerous to the country than Mr. GLADSTONE in Opposition, with no motive whatever for any interest in the welfare of England. So long as he is Premier he is compelled to do in a modified degree and with many searchings of heart something, however feeble and spasmodic, to maintain English interests and English predominance. When no longer Premier he is relieved from such a responsibility, and is able to indulge to the full his unpatriotic instincts. It is better, therefore, to have him as a muzzled watchdog than as an unmuzzled assailant. Indeed, if rumour be true, he was one of the main supporters of a policy of sticking to office, and it was Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, as head of the Scuttle party, who was most bent on retirement. The rumour that the HOME SECRETARY, at all events, was bound to go prevailed much longer, and was only silenced by a solemn manifesto on his part disclaiming any such intention.

After the stir and din of last week's fighting, this week's chronicle of the doings in Parliament must of necessity fall dull and flat. A Redistribution Bill to which the consent of both parties has been already obtained does not present the same attractive features as a good stand-up party fight. Monday was given up in the House of Commons to the airing by Sir JOHN LUBBOCK of his crotchets as to proportional representation, the adoption of which would add yet one more pang to the anxieties of the Returning Officer, but without in other respects seriously affecting any election—except, perhaps, by invalidating it owing to the inability of the electors to understand the system. If a plan of proportional representation in which property had its due influence could be adopted, we should gladly welcome it; but this is too much to expect in these days of unbridled democracy, when votes *numantur non ponderantur*. In the mean time there is little to be gained by the involved intricacy of such plans as that of Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, which was negatived by a very large majority on Tuesday. Wednesday was given up to desultory discussions on Redistribution, and it was hoped that the House might have got into Committee, but Mr. BIGGAR threw himself into the breach and spoke on with his usual irrelevancy till the House adjourned at the mystic hour which on that day of the week puts a stop to all Parliamentary discussions.

Thursday was mainly occupied in Committee of Supply, and an animated discussion took place with reference to the purchase of the Blenheim pictures. The price paid is no doubt a very high one, but one at least of the two pictures is beyond price, and it would have been little short of a national disgrace to have allowed it to go out of the country, more especially as RAFAEL is not at present strongly represented in the National Gallery. The opposition to the vote was led by Mr. CURRIE, who thought the time inopportune for spending so much money. He had rather a heterogeneous gathering of supporters, among whom were Mr. MONTAGUE GUEST, who made a certainly unwise suggestion; Mr. WILLIS, who took the opportunity of letting the world know that he had been to the Louvre; and Mr. REDMOND, who moralised on the effect the news of the purchase would have on the MAHDI. In the end the vote was carried by 131 to 31, and we are glad to find that one of the few instances in which the present Government have acted with spirit and liberality has not been turned to their discredit.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord GRANVILLE made an important statement with regard to our relations with Russia on the Afghan question, which put into authentic shape much which had until then been merely uncomfortable rumour, and on Thurs-

day there was a discussion about the Souakim-Berber railway, in which a vain attempt was made to extract anything definite from Lord MORLEY, beyond a somewhat sanguine estimate of the progress which will be made with it before the autumn. Lord NAPIER of MAGDALA spoke a few sensible words on the inutility of any attempt at making a treaty with the MAHDI, which is a plan that is now being put forward by some persons who forget that the MAHDI is either a prophet or nothing at all, and that it would be impossible for him to make a treaty with the Infidel without abrogating his claim to be the MAHDI at all. He wound up his speech by putting the problem before England very tersely—we must either beat him or leave him alone; and for his part Lord NAPIER hoped we should beat him.

The Prince and Princess of WALES are not likely to be received with enthusiasm by the Irish people, if we may judge from the discussions which have taken place in the Dublin Corporation. While we may trust that the graver anticipations as to the safety of the Princely pair which some have not hesitated to formulate are without foundation, we cannot but fear that they may be exposed to insult in the present state of feeling in the Irish capital. The LORD MAYOR of DUBLIN, having signalled himself by his defiance of decency and order, has thought better of it, and deserves some credit for the moral courage shown in his recantation of the outrageous opinions to which his poverty, and not his will, consented. He is without doubt in a difficult position, and allowance must be made for the pressure put upon him by disloyal associates. It remains to be seen whether he will be able to maintain his revolt against that pressure which has found expression in the very creditable letter of apology which he has circulated among the English Press.

Another of those terrible colliery accidents which from time to time awake us to the consciousness of the perils which environ the daily taskwork of many of our countrymen is recorded this week. The scene of the explosion is Usworth Colliery, near Newcastle, and the victims number no less than thirty-four. Many splendid acts of heroism on the part of those who have endeavoured to rescue the victims are recorded, and the loss of life, terrible as it is, does not appear to be so great as it might have been had the explosion occurred a little later instead of just before the night shift of labourers had descended to their work. The cause of the accident is at present unknown, and is likely to be so, though we may not unfairly conjecture that in this as in most of such accidents the criminal carelessness of one of the victims themselves is responsible for the calamity. It seems impossible to teach miners the most ordinary lessons of precaution, and the old saying that familiarity breeds contempt is in nothing more true than in regard to the contempt of the dangers which attend a miner's life that is induced by familiarity with these dangers.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

The time has long gone by for reminding Mr. GLADSTONE of the very optimism with which he expressed only a few years ago as to the aim and object of the steady Russian advance in Central Asia. If we allude to them at all it is for the strictly practical purpose of pointing out that the statesman whose views on that matter have been thoroughly justified by events was Lord BEACONSFIELD, who declared his intention of securing a scientific frontier for India, and took the necessary measures for securing it. All parties now admit that the only hope for England is to carry out his policy. It is characteristic of the habitual effrontery of an evening Radical journal, that has sadly fallen from the high estate which it once held, that it should assert that "if the Tories were in power, a war on 'the largest scale by sea and land would probably be inevitable.'" The *Pall Mall Gazette* knows as well as we do how false such a statement is. As it appears that we are still to be blessed with Mr. GLADSTONE's tenure of office, it is at all events some comfort to believe that the PRIME MINISTER is, however tardily, a convert to Lord BEACONSFIELD's doctrine. His declaration on Thursday night, that the policy to be pursued on the Afghan frontier is "a strictly national one," "having the assent of the country at large," and "known also to be a policy upon which 'there is a general, perhaps an unanimous, accord,'" can surely have but one meaning, and that, we hope, is the right one. There

can be little doubt that the credit of this determination of the Radical Government to put its foot down at last against further Russian aggression is largely due to Lord DUFFERIN and Sir PETER LUMSDEN. We have not the least doubt that the VICEROY has sternly insisted on the adoption of a vigorous policy, and that the British Commissioner on the frontier has in his own sphere exhibited equal firmness.

The gravity of the situation on the Afghan border cannot be disguised. The position in which Russia now stands on the confines of the Afghan territory is the result of a series of movements extending over many years, and carried out with always the same fixed purpose in view. Nobody supposes that Russia has made her way across the barren plains of Central Asia except with the object of reaching Herat, and of holding it as a point from which to invade India. Another matter is equally clear, which is that Russia has selected the moment which seems to present a more favourable opportunity than may ever again occur for carrying out her design on Herat. Not only is a Radical Ministry in office, but England is deeply involved elsewhere in difficulties that severely tax her military resources, and moreover (which is even more serious) is in a condition of complete isolation from the principal European Powers. Russia has taken the opportunity to advance upon and occupy places which Lord KIMBERLEY expressly declares "are within those portions which HER MAJESTY'S Government have regarded as within the Afghan boundaries." She has done this although Sir PETER LUMSDEN has been kept waiting on the frontier for months for the Russian Commissioner to join him in fixing the delimitation of the boundary. She has done it while the question between her and us is still waiting for settlement, in defiance of all her promises. Lastly, she has refused to withdraw from these positions when asked to do so. The British Government, on its side, has urged the Afghans to yield nothing, and is pledged to support them in their resistance to Russian aggression. Thus we are on the very brink of war with Russia. And why? The answer is, because we have deliberately alienated those who wanted to be our friends, and who, in default of our friendship, have made their alliances elsewhere. Can any one for a moment suppose that Russia would have acted as she is now doing unless she were perfectly secure of the tacit approval of Germany and Austria? And can any one doubt that, if the great Central Powers had been our friends now as they used to be in Lord BEACONSFIELD'S time, and as they would be again (as far as it is still possible) if a Tory Government came into office, pledged as the Conservative party is to revive Lord BEACONSFIELD'S policy—can any one, we say, doubt that Russia would have been held back by fear of a European Coalition against her?

In the midst of this grave crisis it is simply to insult the intelligence of the country to attempt, as the *Standard* does, to minimise its significance by vain and empty boasting. What we want now is something more than brag and bluster. The *Standard* is not in this matter—we take leave to say—the exponent of Conservative opinion. To undervalue Russia's power is absurd. It is quite true that Afghanistan is a long way from the base of the Russian operations; but it is well to remember that the new Trans-Caspian railway, already partly constructed, will shortly be completed as far as Sarakhs. The Russian Army is said to number 788,000 infantry, 53,000 riflemen, 56,000 cavalry, 88,000 artillerymen with 3,456 guns and 35,000 engineers—a total of over a million men, to say nothing of reserves. If only a small proportion of these troops were hurled against Herat, the task of resisting them would be indeed a vast one. It is, at any rate, satisfactory to hear that our Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir DONALD STEWART, has been closely watching the Russian movements, and is prepared to concentrate a large British force for the defence of the Afghan frontier. At the same time, it would be folly to ignore the danger of leaving India denuded of troops. If Russia sees her opportunity in England's difficulties elsewhere, there are not wanting those in India who may think they see their opportunity in a Russian advance. Under the circumstances, we must declare our belief that if any way exists out of the difficulty without going to war with Russia, it can only be by arriving at an understanding with the European Powers whose friendship we do not possess at present. And that desirable object, like other desirable objects for England, can best be obtained by a change of Ministry, for reasons we have fully

explained in another column. It is the chief reason for regretting the result of last Saturday's Division in the House of Commons, that it prevented an immediate change of Ministry. The Radicals who voted then against their consciences for the sake of their Party have perhaps more to answer for than they are yet aware of.

ENGLAND, GERMANY, AND EGYPT.

The speech delivered by Prince BISMARCK in the Reichstag on Monday has aroused a good deal of comment with respect to its manner as well as its matter. That the German CHANCELLOR'S modes of expressing his meaning are of the most direct kind, that he is plain-spoken to a degree, and by no means given to mincing his words, was known to all the world. On this occasion no one could say that he was very softly or smoothly spoken towards the English Administration. Considering what their own countrymen everywhere are at this moment saying of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues, it is not very surprising that a foreign Statesman, under the present circumstances, should also express himself with considerable freedom with regard to their policy. We observe a tendency in some quarters to resent Prince BISMARCK'S observations as unfriendly towards the English people—a construction of his language which, we are confident, has no justification whatever. Towards England herself the IMPERIAL CHANCELLOR takes care to let it be seen that he not only bears no ill-will, but that he has always desired to maintain a friendly attitude. If he has felt aggrieved at the conduct of our Foreign Office and said so pretty plainly, it is hardly for the English people to complain, considering that their own view so entirely coincides with that of Prince BISMARCK. It is notorious that with a change of Ministry here German relations with England would stand on a very different footing from that which they occupy at present. The anti-English aspect of the CHANCELLOR'S policy is, so to speak, purely accidental and temporary. His permanent feeling—based, of course, upon purely practical considerations of what is best for German interests—is all in favour of an English alliance. We can have no sympathy with the gushing and catchpenny sentimentalism of certain so-called Conservative writers who profess to think it a patriotic duty to stand up on behalf of the English Ministry against Prince BISMARCK'S strictures. We fail to see that patriotism demands from Conservatives any action of the kind. As we have said at greater length elsewhere, our first duty to the country is to get rid of the GLADSTONE incubus. The keynote of Tory foreign policy is an alliance with Germany; while, on his side, Prince BISMARCK has always been anxious to secure the friendship of England, and it is his failure to secure it that is the reason of his present wrath.

The source of most of our present troubles abroad has, on the other hand, been the utterly insane course pursued towards Germany by the Radical Government. There is no need to recount for the hundredth time the mischievous results of the "Hands Off" policy. Our embarrassed position in Egypt is one of them; our complications with Russia, as we have said in the previous article, form another. Everywhere we are experiencing the fruits of the Midlothian doctrine. But one of the most noteworthy effects of the anti-German attitude maintained by the GLADSTONE Cabinet is visible in this series of absolutely unnecessary squabbles about Prince BISMARCK'S schemes of German colonisation. We are not in the least concerned to defend all that the IMPERIAL CHANCELLOR has said and done in the matter. It may be admitted that he has shown himself abrupt and disagreeable in his manner of speech, that he has been needlessly and offensively peremptory in the character of his pretensions, that he has exhibited some rather sharp practices in carrying out his plans. We need not pause to specify instances. But the point of our present contention is this—that nothing of the kind need ever have occurred, if our short-sighted Government had taken into consideration the German proposals on the subject of colonisation in a spirit of fairness and justice. There is something almost touching—and as a rule there is very little pathos about Prince BISMARCK—in the CHANCELLOR'S plea that a country like England, possessing a vast Colonial Empire, need not grudge to a friendly people the acquisition of a few small settlements abroad. Englishmen have reason to feel ashamed of the spirit of petty meanness in which the German proposals were met. An amicable arrangement

might surely have been concluded, which, while safeguarding British interests, would have secured to the great German nation those outlets for its energy and enterprise which are strictly necessary for its prosperity. It is perfectly absurd for Englishmen to view the extension of German influence abroad as something to be looked at askance, and, if possible, to be checked and neutralised. There would be some ground for objecting to French schemes of colonisation, for existing French settlements are in a number of instances a source of annoyance to their neighbours. With Germany the case is altogether different. A very large proportion of colonists of German nationality have made themselves a home in British possessions, and it is a matter of experience that there is no more orderly, law-abiding, industrious, and thrifty section of the community in any of our Colonies than the German settlers have shown themselves to be. There can be no doubt that if our Government of Wisdom had had the common sense—to say nothing of any higher quality—to treat Prince BISMARCK'S request for our co-operation in a friendly spirit in carrying out his colonial policy, we should have reaped the benefit of his support in other respects. This they declined to do, and the outcome of their choice is now evident.

There is no part of Prince BISMARCK'S recent speech better worthy of attention than that in which he has frankly stated the views which, after repeated solicitation, he had expressed on the subject of England's position in Egypt. We may just remark in passing that there has been nothing whatever to warrant the *Standard*'s indignant repudiation of what it styles the CHANCELLOR'S attempt to "lecture" Englishmen with regard to their duties. We presume that Prince BISMARCK owns a right to speak his mind on our position in Egypt. As a matter of fact, he was, moreover, asked for his opinion. It is especially gratifying to ourselves of this Journal to note that the authoritative exposition which we have on several occasions felt it our duty to make of the policy of the Tory Party in Egypt tallies precisely with the view expressed by the German CHANCELLOR. It is now clearly proved that if a Conservative Ministry had been in power England would have had the support of Germany and Austria in fulfilling her task in Egypt. Let us set forth once more the two leading principles of Conservative policy in Egypt. The first may be briefly summed up in the expression carefully chosen by Lord SALISBURY the other day—the predominance of England. English predominance in Egypt must be laid down as a fixed and definite factor in the situation, without which an effective administration of Egyptian affairs is rendered impossible, and the restoration of her financial credit made hopeless. The second principle of Tory policy is the recognition of treaty rights and the Suzerainty of the SULTAN. It has been held in some quarters that to acknowledge the SULTAN'S Suzerainty is inconsistent with the maintenance of our own preponderance. That, we think, is a mistake. The relations of the Porte to Egypt are of such a peculiar character that our predominance can very well co-exist with the SULTAN'S rights as Suzerain; and it would have proved our wisest course to have caused our predominance to rest on the SULTAN'S original authority. Putting aside the exceeding desirability of maintaining friendly relations with the Khaliph of Islam, the importance of the point we are urging is this; that unless we are ourselves careful to observe treaty obligations as to the integrity of the Ottoman Empire—obligations which were distinctly confirmed anew at Berlin in 1878—we shall re-open the whole Eastern question again, and justify Russia in seizing Armenia. If it is objected that the SULTAN'S consent to our predominance in Egypt might have been difficult to obtain, our reply is that that would have depended altogether on the kind of inducement we held out to him. We blame the GLADSTONE Government for having fallen into two opposite errors at once. They have done too little and they have done too much. On the one hand, they have tripped under foot the Suzerain's rights and laid themselves open to the interference of Europe. On the other hand, they have mismanaged Egyptian affairs so thoroughly, and reduced Egyptian finances to such confusion, that they have exhausted the patience of the creditors of Egypt, and missed a chance of obtaining their support, which would have been too readily accorded to any system calculated to restore Egyptian prosperity.

THE "DISPARAGED" MINISTRY.

We cannot pretend to be in the least degree surprised at the result of the Division on the Vote of Censure in the House of Commons. It had been anticipated in some quarters that the Whigs and Moderate Liberals would coalesce with the Conservatives. That is a calculation which is always being made on such occasions, and always being falsified. Precisely the same phenomenon has occurred at least twenty times within the last few years. It repeats itself with a regularity which, as Lord SALISBURY would say, establishes a scientific law. Somebody always declares positively that it is "quite impossible" that the Whig members can "stand" this revolutionary measure, or that breach of the Constitution, or the other monstrously un-English piece of Foreign Policy—that the Moderate Liberals in the House of Commons must put their foot down in opposition to some crowning enormity of the extreme Radicals—that it is inconceivable that a statesman like Lord HARTINGTON can pull together much longer with Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. And the odd point is that the failure of their predictions never seems to discourage these augurs, who are perfectly ready to hazard them again another time. In point of fact, there is no greater delusion than to expect that Moderate Liberals, as a body, will stick to what are called their principles, except the other delusion that they possess any principles to stick to. And how any Conservative can advocate (as Mr. Alfred Austin does this month in the *National Review*) a coalition between them and the Tories entirely passes our comprehension. We are altogether sick of talk of that kind, and surprised that anyone having an acquaintance with practical politics should indulge in it. It may be doubted whether a similar dream can ever be realised, but it is quite certain that it ought not to be if it can. From many points of view an honest and consistent Radicalism is much to be preferred to the poor, fond, shifty, invertebrate, thing called Moderate Liberalism; but we Tories may depend upon it that no good ever did or ever will come from putting our trust in Liberals of any shade. Truly the spectacle presented by the House of Commons last Saturday morning is enough to make us almost despair of the future of Constitutional Government in England. If there are any men who have reason to feel utterly ashamed of themselves—utterly confounded by the thought of their own contemptible baseness (the word is not too strong), it is the men who knew what their duty was and did it not; who, at a stern crisis in their country's destiny, put Party above Patriotism, and Caucas above Conscience; who, summoned to pronounce a just and righteous judgment, deliberately gave their decision in the teeth of the evidence.

To expect honesty in the Liberal party is as hopeless as to look for honour in the Liberal Government. It is among the signs of the decay of our political institutions in these days that a Ministry should cling to office under the circumstances in which Mr. GLADSTONE'S Cabinet found themselves placed by the result of Saturday's Division. The plea urged on their behalf, and accepted (strangely enough) by some Conservative journals, is that, omitting all count of the Irish vote, the Government secured a large majority against Sir STAFFORD NORCOTE'S Resolution. We quite agree that the Irish vote ought to be ignored, and only wish that no Ministry would ever consent to reckon it as of the slightest account. The Party of Assassination would have been kicked unceremoniously out of the House of Commons long ago if they had had their deserts; and the idea of a British Cabinet retaining office by their favour or losing it by their displeasure ought to be scouted as too preposterous to be entertained for a moment. But clearly the weak point in the Government case is, that, after subtracting the Irish votes, an enormous majority of the House of Commons has censured their policy in the Sudan. They have no right whatever to plead that their Conservative and ultra-Radical opponents were not agreed among themselves. So far as opposition to the Government went they were agreed, and if Ministers had possessed an elementary sense of decency they would have forbore to inflict themselves longer upon a country that detests and loathes them and all their works. Yet even they must know and feel that the position they now occupy is discredited and precarious in the extreme. Their Chief had declared beforehand that his Government, under the very circumstances that have since occurred, would be "disparaged." How acutely he now feels the "disparagement" may be gathered from the exhibition of certain familiar signs of his

chagrin. This is no case for theatre-going—rather for summoning Sir ANDREW CLARK. A jollification, however appropriate at times of national disaster, is an unsuitable sequel to a grievous personal disappointment. That there is ample food for chastened reflection needs no demonstration. The outlook abroad, the unconcealed hostility of Germany, the querulous irritability of France, the grave complications with Russia—these, added to our difficulties in Egypt and the Sudan, are enough to create anxiety in the breast of a strong and popular Minister, let alone one whose following in Parliament is seriously weakened, and whose reputation in the country is altogether gone. And there are rocks ahead in Parliament, too. Among these we do not, as some of our contemporaries have done, include the possibility that the Conservatives and Radicals will combine to oppose the Army votes for Egypt. The military operations must continue, and we must insist on the adoption of the proper policy of reconstruction afterwards. But that considerable perils will beset the path of a weakened Ministry is certain. By no means one of the least of them will have to be met almost immediately when the question of establishing a Multiple Control in Egypt comes on for settlement. Amid so many inducements to quit office, the one hope that has inspired Ministers to take the contrary course has doubtless been the consideration that if they can but hold on till the General Election, the "capable citizens" may be induced—bamboozled we should rather say, if we may be allowed the word—into giving them a new lease of power. And there are many anticipations less likely of fulfilment than that, perhaps. In one respect, too, this "dis-paraged" Ministry has a distinct advantage over other weak Ministries that we can remember—it is certain of fair play and even of patriotic support from its opponents.

No more striking compliment could have been paid to the Conservative party than the opinion widely expressed among Liberals that, amidst our many dangers, the only chance of showing a united front to the world is that the Radical Government should retain office while the Tories remain in Opposition. Which, being interpreted, signifies this: that a Conservative Opposition, under the guidance of men of honesty and candour, as well as of wisdom and prudence, may be trusted to behave itself in a patriotic spirit of self-abnegation. Side by side with this belief in the integrity of the Conservative party is an equally general and firmly rooted disbelief in the patriotism of the Radicals—a fixed impression that if the Conservatives were to take office they would be hindered and obstructed in every way by the same men whom they are now called upon to support for the sake of the country. That all this is so we do not doubt for a moment. The foregoing estimate of Radical patriotism is not at all too low; while the disinterestedness of the Conservatives is, we hope, not rated too high. Indeed, our only fear is lest the tendency of the Conservatives may be to go too far in the direction of self-sacrifice. To avoid a factious spirit is one thing: to make unnecessary concessions is quite another. The opinion is held, even among some Conservatives, that, on the whole, it is best for the country's sake that the Radicals should retain office at this juncture. Those who entertain this view strangely forget the vast and incalculable amount of harm done to the Empire every day that the GLADSTONE Administration exists. The advent to power of a Conservative Ministry would have the immediate effect of improving our national position all round, besides putting an end to Radical mismanagement and holding out a prospect of neutralising at least some of its ill-effects. And therefore we say that although patriotism demands of us as a party that if we cannot eject the present Government we should abstain from unduly hampering their action, yet our first and chiefest duty to the country is to spare no effort to relieve it as speedily as possible from the incubus of an Administration whose name will live in the annals of England for ages to come as a byword for all that is odious and contemptible.

CONCESSIONS TO IRELAND.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the fate of Sir JOHN HAY's motion on Wednesday, which received the support of only a wretched minority of twenty-five, does not indicate the manner in which the Conservative Party is prepared to treat the all-important subject of Irish Parliamentary representation. That Sir JOHN HAY should have encumbered his motion with any other topics besides this one is to be regretted as a tactical error. There was no need to weaken his case by asking those who

concurred in his views on Irish representation to follow him also on the questions of Scotch and Welsh representation and the undesirability of increasing the present number of the House of Commons. Notwithstanding the announcement made in some of the papers yesterday to the effect that the Leaders of the Opposition intend to discountenance any attempt to introduce serious alterations into the Redistribution Bill, we trust that when the same issue is again raised, as it will be in Committee on the Bill, the Conservative Party will rise to the occasion, and refuse its assent to the further concession to Irish Sedition proposed by the Government scheme. To give 103 members to Ireland instead of her rightful share of 90—or, as another calculation has it, 92½—is to offer a gross outrage to the other parts of the United Kingdom. It may be very true that, as Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOOTE said, the real swamping of Loyalism in Ireland is effected by lowering the franchise; but that is no reason whatever for aggravating the mischief by perpetrating an additional injustice of the most flagrant character. We decline to admit that the Conservative Party is in the least degree bound to accept the Redistribution Bill as it stands, and earnestly trust that Mr. CHARLIN and his friends will persevere in their opposition to the obnoxious provisions which confer special privileges upon the disaffected portion of the kingdom, where the spirit of treason is rampant, at the expense of the QUEEN's loyal subjects in Great Britain.

The weak and foolish policy of attempting to conciliate Irish treason, as it was exposed long ago, becomes more and more discredited every day. What Mr. PARNELL and his allies need is not to be conciliated but to be crushed. The excellent spirit that has prompted the projected visit of the Prince and Princess of WALES to Ireland has been everywhere acknowledged; and the fact that the object of the journey is intimately connected with the interest taken by his Royal Highness in the question of the improvement of the dwellings of the poor gives the PRINCE a new claim on public gratitude. Now that its purpose is made plain, the PRINCE's visit will doubtless do good. It is not undertaken to conciliate sedition. Even the Fenians (who, as we note with special interest, address the PRINCE as a Freemason) understand that it has no political significance. Ireland, as a whole, must be held responsible for the spirit of Revolution that possesses the vast majority of the people; and it seems to us that the time for making conciliatory advances to Ireland is not now. From the same point of view we hold that the action of a number of Conservatives last week in the House of Commons, in voting against the application of the *clôture* to an Irish debate, was utterly mistaken. We dislike the *clôture* as heartily as any one can; but as we have got it, whether we like it or not, the best use it can be put to is that of suppressing the Parliamentary allies of Assassinationism.

The time is rapidly approaching when the Government will be obliged to abandon its present attitude of studied reserve with reference to the renewal of the Crimes Act, and state plainly what course it intends to pursue in the matter. To contemplate any relaxation of the measures now in force for the preservation of order in Ireland would be simple madness. What the condition of the country is may be judged from the recent announcement of the LORD MAYOR of DUBLIN—for which, however, he has since had the grace to offer a handsome apology—of his deliberate intention to insult the Prince of WALES on his arrival, and from the declaration of Mr. O'BRIEN that Ireland was virtually at war with England, except that Ireland was without arms. It is interesting to note, by the way, that amongst the half-dozen English members of the House of Commons of whom alone Mr. O'BRIEN entertains a high opinion Mr. GLADSTONE holds the first place. Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND's cynical utterances in Parliament as to the anxiety of the Irish people to be rid of the soldiers and the constabulary point in the same direction as the more openly seditious language to which we have alluded. All goes to show the necessity of abandoning pusillanimous ideas of conciliation. We have decided to "smash" the MAHDI and his followers in Africa: let us resolve also to "smash" the MAHDI's friends and sympathisers in Ireland.

THE LIVERPOOL PROSECUTION.

The chief point of danger in the discipline—or indiscipline—of the English Church is the arbitrary and irregular action of the Bishops. Promoted, as they too often are, by private or party influence, with little regard to

personal qualifications, and less to diocesan requirements, the marvel is that they turn out so well. The instances, indeed, are not a few where nominees with so little in their favour as the late Bishop BICKERSTETH, or so much against them as Dr. TEMPLE, rise by the aid of Divine grace and the unfaltering loyalty of the clergy into really good and even superior Bishops. Still, Bishops are only human, and when a strong-willed partisan finds himself in a position to smite an adversary, or advance a sycophant, the flesh is weak. Time was that Bishops moved in subordination to the Archbishop; but the moderating power of the Primacy expired with Archbishop HOWLEY. His feeble successor had no hold on prelates like BLOMFIELD and PHILLPOTTS; even WILBERFORCE, with his unrivalled gifts, gave in to the temptation of doing what he pleased in his own diocese. The inevitable corollary, much as Bishops refuse to acknowledge it, is that clergymen claim the right of doing as they like in their own parishes. This evil cannot be dealt with by meetings of Archdeacons and Rural Deans appointed by the Bishop, nor yet by Diocesan Conferences, where the lay element invariably tends to take refuge in Episcopal autocracy. It is the genuine Diocesan Synod that, in the words of the *Reformatio Legum*, "aptissima medicina" "est ad castigandam negligentiam, et tollendos errores qui subinde in ecclesiis per diabolum" "et malos homines disseminantur: fiatque ut" "per hujusmodi synodos conjunctio et charitas" "inter episcopum et clerum augeatur et servetur."

If there is one point on which our Bishops have of late been unanimously agreed, it is the necessity of extinguishing the disastrous litigation provoked by the Public Worship Regulation Act; and nothing can be more deplorable than the ill-advised rekindling of the flames in the diocese of Liverpool. We cannot at all agree with the *Guardian* that the BISHOP is not to blame. On the contrary, the law imposes the entire responsibility on his Lordship. The promoter is merely acting out his own ill-conditioned nature; it is the BISHOP, and only he, that gives effect to this person's malice. It is true that Bishop RYLE objects to the law that lays this burden on the Bishop. He advocates indiscriminate freedom of lay prosecution, and he has proclaimed his conviction of a general want of the judicial mind in the members of the Episcopal order. Bishop RYLE has a right to his opinions, and may have the best possible proof of their soundness; but he has no right to substitute his opinion for the law. It is not, and never has been, the law that any layman may drag a clergyman into court on his own private construction of the Liturgy. If the existing restraint should be relaxed, the law will doubtless provide some other defence against injurious litigation. Meantime, the Act under which these proceedings are taken requires the Bishop's consent before the suit can be commenced. This is not a privilege to be waived at his pleasure: it is a duty laid upon him in the interests of the Church. And to the whole Church he must answer for a needless breach of the peace. It is important to observe that the promoter is not a parishioner, and consequently has no *locus standi* under the Public Worship Regulation Act. He has no personal grievance. To be heard in the matter at all he resorts to the Church Discipline Act, and here the Bishop's consent is a *sine qua non*. In giving his consent the BISHOP has opened a wider door to this sort of litigation than was attempted in the most odious measure of modern times; and he does this in violation of an armistice brought about by wiser heads than his own, in the hope—which Bishop RYLE had already done his best to defeat—of obtaining an improved jurisdiction.

The BISHOP might have had some excuse if the offences charged were novel and unknown; but they are exactly those which common consent has declared most undesirable to bring before the existing Courts. Nay, he has himself declined for this very reason to take proceedings against Mr. BELL COX. There is no new point to be adjudicated, no pretence of ascertaining the law. The law, as far as Lord PENZANCE and the Judicial Committee can declare it, is abundantly established. That it fails to command the consent of the clergy is also abundantly clear. The only object in reopening the litigation is to add another to the victims of the law, and to scatter to the winds whatever prospects might be cherished of a lasting accommodation. These prospects have been seriously damaged by the opposition of the Bishop of LIVERPOOL and his friends on the one hand, and of the party he is prosecuting on the other, to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Ecclesiastical Courts. If they disappear for ever in the flames of this gratuitous lit-

igation, the Church will certainly not absolve Bishop RYLE of the guilt. If the report be true that he is acting under the advice of his METROPOLITAN, we are sorry for the Province of York. We do not much care whether another prisoner be sent to Lancaster Castle, or whether some lucky chance deliver Mr. COX from the pitfalls of the law. Personally, the promoter and the defendant are equally distant from any sympathy of ours. What concerns us, what the Church has good right to complain of, is the objectless, gratuitous repetition of a disastrous scandal by the permission of the BISHOP whose duty it was to prevent it.

The Bishop of Liverpool has issued the following among other regulations on the subject of Confirmation:—"As a general rule I do not wish candidates to be presented for confirmation under the age of fifteen. But having regard to local circumstances, and the difference in degree of the mental development of young persons, I do not wish to draw a hard and fast line in this matter. I request, however, that no candidate be presented who has not attained the age of thirteen." We note that Dr. Ryle confines himself to stating a "wish" and a "request" on the subject. We are so far thankful that his Lordship does not actually say he will refuse to confirm a candidate under the age of thirteen. To do so would appear to be distinctly illegal.

We must remark, with all respect, that even as the matter stands, both the "wish" and the "request" are, as it seems to us, in plain contradiction to the express commandment of the Church, that a baptised child "is to be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, in the vulgar tongue, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism." The conditions which the Church requires to be observed do not include the attainment by the candidate of any particular standard of age.

To insist that candidates for Confirmation should reach a high limit of age is, of course, a natural corollary of the Puritanical idea of Confirmation, as a rite to which the baptised come in order to "confirm" their vows. The Church's doctrine is that they come to the Bishop "to be confirmed by him." Those who believe, with the Church, in the sacramental character of Confirmation as an Ordinance in which Divine Grace is given to strengthen the soul against temptation, will realise the importance of arming the young betimes against the dangers they are called upon to encounter, and the serious responsibility involved in withholding from them the special means Divinely instituted in the Church for that purpose.

In connection with the publication of the Bishop of Liverpool's "request" above mentioned, which we cannot but deem wholly inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the Church's express injunctions on the subject of Confirmation, it is impossible to forget that Dr. Ryle is at this moment permitting the persecution of a faithful clergyman of his diocese for an alleged infraction of the Church's law; and we must ask pardon for remarking that a Bishop who prosecutes a zealous and devoted parish priest on such grounds as these should be careful to place his own loyalty to the Book of Common Prayer entirely above suspicion.

Reviews.

GEORGE ELIOT.*
[SECOND NOTICE.]

In our last notice we left George Eliot on the brink of her great triumph. She had found in fiction her true sphere of literary labour, and was no longer to be known to the world as a mere translator of German philosophers. The *Scenes of Clerical Life* were a great and genuine success, but it was *Adam Bede* which first established the author's position. She thoroughly enjoyed all the "pleasant scraps of admiration" which reached her, and an eulogistic letter from Charles Dickens, whose keen sight divined at once the feminine authorship of the *Scenes*, specially delighted her. Thackeray, on the other hand, and Mrs. Oliphant pronounced that they were not written by a woman. A characteristic letter from Mrs. Carlyle, acknowledging a presentation copy, is also given, from which we must quote the following passage:—

"In guessing at why you gave me this good gift, I have thought, amongst other things, 'Oh, perhaps it was a delicate way of presenting the novel to my husband, he being over head and ears in history.' If that was it, I compliment you on your tact for my husband is much likelier to read the *Scenes* on my responsibility than on a venture of his own—though, as a general rule, never opening a novel, he has engaged to read this one whenever he has some leisure from his present task."

"I hope to know some day if the person I am addressing bears any resemblance in external things to the idea I have conceived of him in my mind—a man of middle age, with a wife, from whom he has got those beautiful feminine touches in his book—a good many children, and a dog that he has as much fondness for as I have for my little Nero! For the rest—not just a clergyman, but brother or first cousin to a clergyman! How ridiculous all this may read beside the reality. Anyhow—I honestly confess: I am very curious about you, and look forward with what Mr. Carlyle would call 'a good, healthy, genuine desire' to shaking hands with you some day. In the meanwhile, I remain, your obliged,"

"JANE W. CARLYLE."

* *George Eliot's Life*, as related in her Letters and Journals. Arranged and edited by J. W. Cross. In Three Vols.—Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons, 1885.

These comments were called forth by the *Scenes*, but it was *Adam Bede* which first aroused popular enthusiasm and spread the reputation of the author beyond the circle of the select few. The Liggins imposture to which "S. G. O." has recently called attention, for a time misled the public, and forms a curious chapter in literary history which gave the real author serious annoyance. But instead of dwelling on this, we prefer to quote the following interesting description of the genesis of her first great work:—

The germ of *Adam Bede* was an anecdote told me by my Methodist Aunt Samuel (the wife of my father's younger brother)—an anecdote from her own experience. We were sitting together one afternoon during her visit to me at Grif, probably in 1839 or 1840, when it occurred to her to tell me how she had visited a condemned criminal—a very ignorant girl, who had murdered her child and refused to confess; how she had stayed with her praying through the night, and how the poor creature at last broke out into tears, and confessed her crime. My aunt afterwards went with her in the cart to the place of execution; and she described to me the great respect with which this ministry of hers was regarded by the official people about the goal. The story, told by my aunt with great feeling, affected me deeply, and I never lost the impression of that afternoon and our talk together; but I believe I never mentioned it, through all the intervening years, till something prompted me to tell it to George in December, 1856, when I had begun to write the *Scenes of Clerical Life*. He remarked that the scene in the prison would make a fine element in a story; and I afterwards began to think of blending this and some other recollections of my aunt in one story, with some points in my father's early life and character. The problem of construction that remained was to make the unhappy girl one of the chief dramatic persons, and connect her with the hero. At first I thought of making the story one of the series of *Scenes*, but afterwards, when several motives had induced me to close these with *Jane's Repentance*, I determined on making what we always called in our conversation "My Aunt's Story" the subject of a long novel, which I accordingly began to write on the 22nd October, 1857.

The character of Dinah grew out of my recollections of my aunt; but Dinah is not at all like my aunt, who was a very small, black-eyed woman, and (as I was told, for I never heard her preach) very vehement in her style of preaching. She had left off preaching when I knew her, being probably sixty years old, and in delicate health; and she had become, as my father told me, much more gentle and subdued than she had been in the days of her active ministry and bodily strength, when she could not rest without exhorting and remonstrating in season and out of season. I was very fond of her, and enjoyed the few weeks of her stay with me greatly. She was loving and kind to me, and I could talk to her about my inward life, which was closely shut up from those usually round me. I saw her only twice again, for much shorter periods—once at her own home at Wirksworth in Derbyshire, and once at my father's last residence, Foleshill.

The character of Adam and one or two incidents connected with him were suggested by my father's early life; but Adam is not my father any more than Dinah is my aunt. Indeed, there is not a single portrait in *Adam Bede*; only the suggestions of experience wrought up into new combinations. When I began to write it, the only elements I had determined on, besides the character of Dinah, were the character of Adam, his relation to Arthur Donnithorne, and their mutual relations to Hetty—i.e., to the girl who commits child-murder—the scene in the prison being, of course, the climax towards which I worked. Everything else grew out of the characters and their mutual relations. Dinah's ultimate relation to Adam was suggested by George, when I had read to him the first part of the first volume: he was so delighted with the presentation of Dinah, and so convinced that the readers' interest would centre in her, that he wanted her to be the principal figure at the last. I accepted the idea at once, and from the end of the third chapter worked with it constantly in view.

George Eliot acknowledges that she was strongly affected by the opinion of others on her work, though she was sufficiently confident in herself to know that it was good. Indeed, she was somewhat overwhelmed by her consciousness of the success which she had obtained, and thus expresses her feelings in her journal:—

Shall I ever write another book as true as *Adam Bede*? The weight of the future presses on me, and makes itself felt even more than the deep satisfaction of the past and present.

So when *The Mill on the Floss*—a name selected not without much hesitation and consideration—was in preparation, she thus writes to her kindly and sympathising critic and publisher, John Blackwood:—

I'm glad my story cleaves to you. At present I have no hope that it will affect people as strongly as *Adam Bede* has done. The characters are on a lower level generally, and the environment less romantic. But my stories grow in me like plants, and this is only in the leaf-bud. I have faith that the flower will come. Not enough faith, though, to make me like the idea of beginning to print till the flower is fairly out—till I know the end as well as the beginning.

To him, also, is addressed the following letter, which is interesting as throwing light on her method of composition:—

I agree with you that it will be well not to promise the book in March—not because I do not desire and hope to be ready, but because I set my face against all pledges that I am not sure of being able to fulfil. The third volume is, I fancy, always more rapidly written than the rest. The third volume of *Adam Bede* was written in six weeks, even with headaching interruptions, because it was written under a stress of emotion, which first volume cannot be. I will send you the first volume of *The Mill* at once. The second is ready, but I would rather keep it as long as I can. Besides the advantage to the book of being out by Easter, I have another reason for wishing to have done in time for that. We want to get away for two months to Italy, if possible, to feed my mind with fresh thoughts, and to assure ourselves of that fruitifying holiday before the boys are about us, making it difficult for us to leave home. But you may rely on it that no amount of horse-power would make me hurry over my book, so as not to do my best. If it is written fast, it will be because I can't help writing it fast.

The "fresh thoughts" here referred to fructified in *Romola*, which is to our mind her greatest work, and the extracts from the journal of her Italian tour, taken mainly to prepare for it, are full of interest. We find it difficult to resist quoting her striking picture of Pæstum, but the demands on our space compel its omission, as also that of an admirable description of Nuremberg in the first volume which we had marked for extract.

These are two out of many brilliant sketches of travel to which considerable, but by no means undue, space has been allotted by the biographer.

The latter of the two we should have specially liked to quote, as George Eliot's German experiences have not been worked up by her into her books in the same manner as her Italian experiences, though we cannot doubt that they would have been had opportunity offered. Indeed, the sketch of Nuremberg is very characteristic of the writer, and well deserves a place in any volume of extracts from her writings.

A second visit to Florence was paid before *Romola* took definite form, and after their return home she got "into a state of much wretchedness" in the attempt to concentrate her thoughts on the construction of her story, feeling worried about her plot, and with a want of confidence in her ability to carry it out which she had not felt in regard to any of her previous works. At one time she was almost determined to give it up; but more courageous counsels prevailed, and in the end, though not without regret at leaving her old friend Blackwood, she made an agreement to publish it in the *Cornhill* for £3,000, paid in twelve monthly instalments. But the writing of *Romola* "ploughed into her" more than any of her books. In her own words to Mr. Cross, "I began 'it a young woman, I finished it an old woman.'" A letter to Mr. Hutton gives an interesting criticism of it from the writer's own point of view:—

After reading your article on *Romola*, with careful reference to the questions you put to me in your letter, I can answer sincerely that I find nothing fanciful in your interpretation. On the contrary, I am confirmed in the satisfaction I felt when I first listened to the article, at finding that certain chief elements of my intention have impressed themselves so strongly on your mind, notwithstanding the imperfect degree in which I have been able to give form to my ideas. Of course, if I had been called on to expound my own book, there are other things that I should want to say, or things that I should say somewhat otherwise; but I can point to nothing in your exposition of which my consciousness tells me that it is erroneous, in the sense of saying something which I neither thought nor felt. You have seized with a fairness which I had hardly hoped that my book could suggest, what it was my effort to express in the presentation of Barde and Baldassarre; and also the relation of the Florentine political life to the development of Tito's nature. Perhaps even a judge so discerning as yourself could not infer from the imperfect result how strict a self-control and selection were exercised in the presentation of details. I believe there is scarcely a phrase, an incident, an allusion, that did not gather its value to me from its supposed subsequence to my main artistic objects. But it is likely enough that my mental constitution would always render the issue of my labour something excessive—wanting due proportion. It is the habit of my imagination to strive after as full a vision of the medium in which a character moves as of the character itself. The psychological causes which prompted me to give such details of Florentine life and history as I have given are precisely the same as those which determined me in giving the details of English village life in *Silas Marner*, or the "Dodson" life, out of which were developed the destinies of poor Tom and Maggie. But you have correctly pointed out the reason why my tendency to excess in this effort after artistic vision makes the impression of a fault in *Romola* much more perceptible than in my previous books. And I am not surprised at your dissatisfaction with *Romola* herself. I can well believe that the many difficulties belonging to the treatment of such a character have not been overcome, and that I have failed to bring out my conception with adequate fulness. I am sorry she has attracted you so little; for the great problem of her life, which essentially coincides with a chief problem in Savonarola's, is one that readers need helping to understand. But with regard to that and to my whole book, my predominant feeling is—not that I have achieved anything, but that great, great facts have struggled to find a voice through me, and have only been able to speak brokenly. That consciousness makes me cherish the more any proof that my work has been seen to have some true significance by minds prepared not simply by instruction, but by that religious and moral sympathy with the historical life of man which is the larger half of culture.

The third volume, to which we now pass, is hardly so interesting as its predecessors. It records George Eliot's first attempt at poetry, which she made with the consciousness that a good deal of disgust would be felt towards her in many quarters "for doing what was not looked for from 'me, and becoming unreadable to many who have 'hitherto found me readable and debatable.'" Her happy epigram on the subject is worth quoting:—

Religion and novels every ignorant person feels competent to give an opinion upon, but *en fait de poésie* a large number of them "only read Shakespeare."

It must be owned that *The Spanish Gypsy* and its poetical successor did not achieve the same artistic triumph as the novels, nor do we think that the explanation is altogether a true one which she suggests in a passage of Balzac which we do not remember to have met with before—"When I want the world to praise my novels I 'write a drama, when I want them to praise my 'dramas I write a novel.'" The true bent of her genius was undoubtedly that of the novelist rather than of the poet, and we find her more in her element in *Middlemarch* and *Daniel Deronda*, which occupy a large space in this portion of her biography. In reference to the latter, we find a passage well worth quoting in a letter from George Eliot to Mrs. H. B. Stowe, for whom she had apparently a high esteem and regard, which were hardly to be justified by the literary merits of the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*:—

As to the Jewish element in *Deronda*, I expected from first to last, in writing it, that it would create much stronger resistance, and even repulsion, than it has actually met with. But precisely because I felt that the usual attitude of Christians towards Jews is—hardly know whether to say more impious or more stupid, when viewed in the light of their professed principles, I therefore felt urged to treat Jews with such sympathy and understanding as my nature and knowledge could attain to. Moreover, not only towards the Jews, but towards all Oriental peoples with whom we English come in contact, a spirit of arrogance and contemptuous dictatorialness is observable which has become a national disgrace to us. There is nothing I should care more to do, if it were possible, than to rouse the imagination of men and women to a vision of human claims in those races of their fellow-men who most differ from them in customs and beliefs. But towards the Hebrews we Western people, who have been reared in Christianity, have a peculiar debt, and, whether we acknowledge it or not, a peculiar thoroughness of fellowship in religious and moral senti-

ment. Can anything be more disgusting than to hear people called "educated" making small jokes about eating ham, and showing themselves empty of any real knowledge as to the relation of their own social and religious life to the history of the people they think themselves witty in insulting? They hardly know that Christ was a Jew. And I find men, educated, supposing that Christ spoke Greek. To my feeling, this deadness to the history which has prepared half our world for us, this inability to find interest in any form of life that is not clad in the same coat-tails and fashions as our own, lies very close to the worst kind of irreligion. The best that can be said of it, that it is a sign of the intellectual narrowness—in plain English, the stupidity—which is still the average mark of our culture.

Yes, I expected more aversion than I have found. But I was happily independent in material things, and felt no temptation to accommodate my writing to any standard except that of trying to do my best in what seemed to me most needful to be done; and I sum up with the writer of the Book of Maccabees—"If I have done well, and as befits the subject, it is what I desired; and if I have done ill, it is what I could attain unto."

The estimate which the writer formed of contemporary fiction is not without interest:—

The other day, having a bad headache, I did what I have sometimes done before at intervals of five or six years—looked into three or four novels to see what the world was reading. The effect was paralyzing, and certainly justifies me in that abstinence from novel-reading which, I fear, makes me seem supercilious or curish to the many persons who send me their books, or ask me about their friends' books. To be delivered from all doubts as to one's justification in writing at this stage of the world, one should have either a plentiful faith in one's own exceptionalness, or a plentiful lack of money. Tennyson said to me, "Everybody writes so well now"; and if the lace is only machine-made, it still pushes out the hand-made, which has differences only for a fine fastidious appreciation. To write indifferently after having written well—that is, from a true, individual store which makes a special contribution—is like an eminent clergyman spoiling his reputation by lapse, and neutralising all the good he did before. However, this is superfluous stuff to write to you. It is only a sample of the way in which depression works upon me. I am not the less grateful for all the encouragement I get.

Her own lace was certainly not machine-made, and though we can never feel the same enthusiasm for her as many of her admirers to whom it is matter of indifference that she lived with another woman's husband and deliberately discarded the Christian Creed—it is hardly too much to say any creed whatever, except a belief in Comte tempered by George Eliot—her place in nineteenth century literature is firmly established. Under these circumstances a special interest is imparted to the rare glimpses which her biographer affords of her method of composition, and of the working in her of the creative elements. Mr. Cross contributes a curious passage on this point:—

During our short married life, our time was so much divided between travelling and illness that George Eliot wrote very little, so that I have but slight personal experience of how the creative effort affected her. But she told me that, in all that she considered her best writing, there was a "not herself" which took possession of her, and that she felt her own personality to be merely the instrument through which this spirit, as it were, was acting. Particularly she dwelt on this in regard to the scene in *Middlemarch* between Dorothea and Rosamond, saying that, although she always knew they had, sooner or later, to come together, she kept the idea resolutely out of her mind until Dorothea was in Rosamond's drawing-room. Then, abandoning herself to the inspiration of the moment, she wrote the whole scene exactly as it stands, without alteration or erasure, in an intense state of excitement and agitation, feeling herself entirely possessed by the feelings of the two women. Of all the characters she had attempted, she found Rosamond's the most difficult to sustain. With this sense of "possession," it is easy to imagine what the cost to the author must have been of writing books, each of which has its tragedy. We have seen the suffering alluded to in the letters on *The Mill on the Floss*, *Felix Holt*, and *Romola*.

For those who would know the length and the breadth of George Eliot's intellectual capacity, she has written her books. Here I am only putting down some of my own personal impressions or recollections, which must be taken for what they are worth. In doing this, I should like to dwell on the catholicity of her judgment. Singularly free from the spirit of distraction, either in respect of her contemporaries or her predecessors, she was always anxious to see the best and the most noble qualities of human beings or of books, in cases where she felt some general sympathy notwithstanding particular disagreements. And it was this wide sympathy, this understanding of so many points of view, that gained for her the passionate devotion not only of personal friends, but also of literary admirers from the most widely separated sections of society. Probably few people have ever received so many intimate confidences from confidants of such diverse habits of thought.

There is much in this which may be admitted, but when he proceeds to add that "George Eliot's 'was emphatically a religious mind' we must part company from him. Here again, however, we find ourselves brought dangerously near to subjects which we do not wish to discuss at length. We must, however, hasten on, and cannot even pause to quote a striking passage which we have marked, descriptive of the life at The Priory during the closing years of her union with Mr. Lewes. That union was shortly afterwards terminated by the death of Mr. Lewes, which was a terrible blow to her, and her first access of grief was indulged in beyond measure. But, as is so often the case with such violent regrets, she consoled herself with unexpected rapidity. Mr. Lewes died in November, 1878, and George Eliot remarried in May, 1880. Mr. Cross, who has now become her biographer, was much younger than herself, and it is interesting to recall how she excused the difference in years between Miss Thackeray and Mr. Ritchie in language which could not improperly be applied to herself, though the difference was not quite so great in her case as in that on which she commented:—

I saw him at Cambridge, and felt that the nearly twenty years' difference between them was bridged hopefully by his solidity and gravity. This is one of several instances that I have known of lately, showing that young men with even brilliant advantages will often choose as their life's companion a woman whose attractions are chiefly of the spiritual order.

A brief seven months of wedded life were all that she enjoyed with her youthful husband, and the three volumes now before us are the tribute of

affectionate regard to her memory which Mr. Cross has supplied with no little skill and taste, if we once admit the correctness of his method.

NEW NOVELS.

No doubt it is a pleasant change for a poor East-end curate, with a mother and brother dependent upon him, to suddenly find himself converted into a Squire, as the phrase goes. When early in the first volume* a very charming young lady such as Judith Wynne is imported into the family circle, and she and the Squire proceed to fall in love with each other, the experienced novel reader begins to smell a rat and feel a misgiving that all is not quite right with regard to the poor curate's inheritance. Mysterious visions, and also more mundane difficulties in the way of jealousy, prevent the course of true love from running smooth. The jealousy is aroused by the presence of a lady who must be described in Mrs. Pirkin's own words as "a young woman, gloriously, 'sensuously beautiful, a goddess in her face, and an 'Empress in her gait.' She is a great contrast to the charming young lady herself, 'with a pale, dark 'face a little in the shadows behind, whose only 'loveliness lay in fulness of expression and subtle 'suggestions of spirituality.'" But the goddess-Empress engages herself, not to the Rev. Wolf Reese, the hero, but to his brother Oscar, whom she subsequently throws over for one of his fellow-pupils. The field is then apparently left free to the subtle suggestions of Judith Wynne's spirituality. But a more dangerous and mysterious rival appears in the shape of the bad heroine, Miss Delphine Pierpoint, who is as complete a personification of everything that is vicious, as Judith, the good heroine, is of everything that is virtuous. She, however, possesses a hold over the unfortunate Wolf, as she knows the secret of his inheritance, or rather of his having no right to his inheritance, and has made her bargain accordingly. We may, by the way, pause to protest against the author's representation of an English clergyman, represented in all other respects as a model of excellence, stooping to such fraudulent conduct in order to keep to himself a property which he knows not to be his own, and ready to pay blackmail in purse and person to an American adventuress who had become possessed of his secret. Delphine originally had fallen in love with the property, but by degrees she comes to love poor Wolf himself, and as part of her scheme to ensure her marriage with him and his retention of the property, makes attempts to do away with the rightful heir, a small boy whom she has brought over with her, pretending that he was her nephew. These plots are frustrated by Judith under most sensational circumstances, and in the end, when the secret can no longer be kept, the Rev. Wolf Reese preaches a sermon, in which, to the surprise of his congregation, he makes a full confession of his own misconduct. He warns his temptress Delphine to escape before the hands of justice are upon her, and she makes a most sensational exit from the world, contriving to carry with her to destruction a pair of innocent ponies and another of the bad characters of the story who has been in the habit of extorting blackmail from her as she has done from Wolf. After a further interval of five years, during which some of the other characters, including the youthful heir, are killed off, the repentant Wolf marries the estimable Judith, appearing, Banquo-like, to occupy the vacant chair which, in accordance with old superstition, is placed each Christmas eve at the dining-room table in the mansion of Plas-y-Coed. The story of which we have given this brief outline is relieved by sundry incidental absurdities on which it is unnecessary to dwell, as they are only in keeping with the improbability of the plot and the unreality of the personages concerned in working it out.

Mrs. Pender Cudlip is becoming as well known by her married name as Miss Annie Thomas was by her maiden name, and the almost unlimited supply of novels which she provides are equally well recommended to her readers by the appearance of the one name as of the other on their title-page. The latest addition to that supply is *Kate Valliant*,† which, without containing very much that distinguishes it from the ordinary run of novels, is a by no means unfavourable specimen of the ordinary run. An ingenious person has calculated that in a comparatively short time every possible combination of words will be exhausted, so that it will not be possible for novelists to produce a new one. This condition of things has not yet been arrived at, but there are serious indications that every possible combination of incidents is in a rapid way of being exhausted by the ordinary novelist. We are unable to say that Mrs. Cudlip has shown herself superior to the ordinary novelist in this respect, and *Kate Valliant* is but a new mixture of very old materials. The match-making mother, the heartless daughter, the hopeful matrimonial catch whom the heartless daughter entraps, the self-devoted sister of the hopeful matrimonial catch, the worthy but uninteresting lover, generally a doctor, the worthless but more interesting lover, generally a county squire, are familiar ingredients which have in the present case been mixed up with no little professional skill. The result is not one of those books which unduly excite the reader, but at the same time it is calculated to arouse a certain degree of languid interest in him. It is not possible to sympathise very deeply with *Kate Valliant's* joys or sorrows, but there is a certain amount of literary ability still shown in working up the proper feeling of indignation with

* *Judith Wynne*. By C. L. Pirkin. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1884.

† *Kate Valliant*. By Annie Thomas (Mrs. Pender Cudlip). In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1885.

which we must regard the unmixed selfishness and the more than questionable morality of Miss Blanche Carroll. At the same time we cannot regard the story of her married life as either edifying or amusing. The inevitable murder, which is an essential requisite of most modern novels, is, in the present case, lugged in by the head and shoulders, and Anna Valence is rather of the type of heroine which we are accustomed to find in transpontine melodramas. Nor are the circus experiences of the fair Kate herself very true to real life. But the novel is one which, with all its faults, may well wile away a wet afternoon or two by the seaside, though it is little likely to achieve any greater amount of success in the overstocked world of fiction. We have, we must own, read a great many better novels, but we have also read a great many worse. Comparing the author with herself rather than with her numerous rivals, we do not think that *Kate Valliant* will rank very high among Mrs. Pender Cudlip's novels.

The author of the *Chevelley Novels* is known to those who know him at all as the projector of an ambitious venture which hardly met with the success which the author expected, for an ungrateful public declined to recognise in them a new series of *Waverleys*, as it was obviously intended that the public should have done. In his present attempt he has not aspired so high, and *Souls and Cities* is an unpretending little volume well adapted for railway reading, but not aiming at a more prominent place in the literature of fiction. The story is concerned with the fortunes of the Reverend Nathaniel Naylor and his wife, Constance Hilda, a lady who by dressing in blue velvet much scandalised the stricter members of the "Church" to which Mr. Naylor was called to act as pastor. A yet graver charge than that of dressing in a manner unsuitable to the wife of a minister of a respectable Dissenting connection was formulated against her by the vindictive gossip of some of the female members of the connection, who would have been glad enough to have caught the Reverend Nathaniel for themselves. Unfortunately for Mrs. Naylor, while their jealous eyes were scrutinising her conduct most closely, a quondam lover of hers appears upon the scene, the Reverend Archibald Kingslett, who labours under the double disadvantage at such a crisis of being a very good-looking man and a clergyman of the Established Church. The whole story is much ado about nothing; and though the writer is undoubtedly clever, he is not quite so clever as he fancies himself to be, and his persistent obtrusion of his cleverness on the reader is rather annoying. His fun and his pathos are alike laboured; and though, as we have said, *Souls and Cities* is well suited to railway reading, it will not stand the test of a more careful perusal.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Every Conservative in the kingdom who desires to be well and accurately informed on the political questions of the day should not fail to lay out a shilling on *The Constitutional Year Book*, to be obtained of Messrs. Harrison and Sons, of 59, Pall-mall. It contains no less than ninety-three tables of facts and statistics with respect to our National Revenue and Expenditure; the respective results of Conservative and Radical finance; taxes imposed, reduced, or repealed; income-tax since 1853; particulars of the population; primary education; emigration; poor relief; crime; the Army and auxiliary forces; the Navy; agriculture; imports and exports of food, merchandise, and specie; average food consumption; tonnage of vessels; production of coal and metals; various particulars as to each portion of the British Empire and each of the principal countries of the world; railways; railway accidents; canals and other means of locomotion; savings-banks; the price of Consols; the coinage of the Mint; and the borough and county constituencies, and their classification according to population. This is an abridged description of this valuable body of statistics. Besides this portion of the work, we get a vast quantity of other information, such as a table of the British Administrations of the present century; lists of Viceroy of Ireland and Governors-General of India; an account of the Government departments (in which we observe an omission to mention the Agents-General for the Colonies, who are only alluded to in connection with the Crown Agents); a short abstract of the Constitution and of the power of the Crown and the two Houses of Parliament, with lists of the members of the Legislature, an analysis of the principal divisions in the Lower House since 1880, and a complete account of the manner in which each of its members has voted in them—a compilation of the greatest utility. The politics of the constituencies since 1832, and a number of details relating to each constituency follow next—two more extremely useful tables. An able summary of the new Election Law deserves the closest attention from politicians. It includes, by the way, a table of the amount of legitimate election expenses for each borough and county constituency. The "Political Notes" on Finance, the new Reform Bill, the London Government Bill, the Transvaal, Egypt, and the Sudan, are very full and exceedingly well done. The account of the British Empire explains some of the principal questions relating to its future policy; and there is added a list of books of reference for the Colonies. A table of Statutes of 1884; an account of Elections in 1884; a Parliamentary Summary for 1884; a glossary of political terms; a summary of the Redistribution Bill, and other

particulars, complete the book. Though we have given only this bare list of its contents, we feel we need only add that it has been carefully compiled and efficiently edited, to prove that it is indispensable to every intelligent Conservative—which is another way of saying, to every decent man in the country. We have one suggestion to make: that a few statistics about the Church should be included in the next issue—such as those which we are ourselves engaged in culling from the *Official Year-Book of the Church of England*.

There is much that is valuable—evidently the result of considerable experience—in *The Joy of the Ministry* (Hodder and Stoughton), by F. R. Wynne, M.A. Many of the suggestions embodied are wise, practical, and of some worth; while the book is written on an intelligible system and in good English. Two obvious defects, however, run throughout it—first, the absence of any exact and sufficient idea of a sacerdotal order, and a practical and actual ministry of reconciliation; and secondly, a want of dependence on the Supernatural. The book may have been written up to the level of the ordinary Irish Protestant minister—perhaps it was; but that is not a very exalted level, nor is it one likely to be crowded by admirers; there only negation-mongers will congregate. Misbelief—or partial belief—is in its influence sometimes as dangerous in its consequences as unbelief.

Dr. Samuel Cox's small book *Miracles; an Argument and a Challenge* (Kegan Paul and Co.) is very disappointing, conceding far too much to the unbeliever and agnostic. If Darwin's and Wallace's fantastic and degrading theories of life are true, there is no room for a soul, immortality, or a Creator. Our present-day need is faith, not mere intellect. Dr. Cox's literary mop, however, will be of no use whatsoever in stemming the tide of unbelief. It is only on Catholic principles that the whole Revelation of God in Christ can be adequately maintained and defended; and these are largely and almost entirely absent from the present feeble, priggish, but well-meant attempt to break the moral fall into the pit of blind atheism of the self-willed and self-pleasers.

Dean Plumptre's *Biblical Studies* (Griffith and Farran) evidently belong, more or less, to the "goody-goody and nebulous school of thought." In the studies in question all their readers get is learning, criticism, common-place reflections, old notions dressed up in new literary swaddling-clothes, and enough pietistic maundering to stock forty Dissenting ministers. But the style is not exactly to our taste. Nor is the method sound. Too much is ostentatiously conceded to modern critics. Something is often explained, but very often more is explained away. Readers who admire "our common Christianity"—without "dogma, backbone, point, or pertinence"—will no doubt buy this volume and gush over it both with feeling and piety.

In *Egypt and Babylon*, from Scripture and profane sources (Hodder and Stoughton), Canon Rawlinson has given us a work which will prove of infinite service to all who seek to comprehend the historical significance of the passages in the Old Testament which refer to those nations. The work bears evidence of much careful research; and while the student may not be in full harmony with all the conclusions at which the author arrives, yet he will heartily welcome the volume as a valuable aid to his further study of the subject.

The Variorum Teacher's Bible (Eyre and Spottiswoode), of which we have already had occasion to speak most highly, has, we learn, met with an unprecedented sale, while from every quarter of the globe, and from Bishops, clergymen, and laymen, the highest testimonials as to its invaluable aid to preachers and teachers and students are daily being added to the already long list of those who have commended it for the vast amount of reliable and useful information contained in what comprises the second part of the volume, and collected under the head of "Aids to Bible Students." Forming a perfect Bible cyclopaedia, it is indeed a book which marks an era in Bible-publishing, and one that cannot fail to obtain a large circulation by its own intrinsic merit.

The Clergy Directory (T. G. Johnson) is so well known, and its merits as a work of reference are so highly appreciated, that it is scarcely necessary for us to do more than announce the issue of the volume for 1885, being the fifteenth year of publication. We may note an entirely new feature in the book, and one that will greatly enhance its value, viz., a complete list of chaplains in Her Majesty's forces. Amongst other improvements, where improvement was possible, we notice that the Cathedral section has been amplified, and the list of Church societies considerably extended, which will make the volume even more useful as a standard work of reference for the clergy and the Church.

War and Christianity, an excellent article by J. A. Farrar, which appeared in a recent number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, has been issued in pamphlet form by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

Messrs. Parker and Co.'s admirable little magazine, the *Penny Post*, for March is to hand. Amongst the contents we note a carefully-written article on "The Creeds," which will be highly appreciated by all Churchmen. There are also some earnest words of exhortation for a more reverent study of the Lord's Prayer than is often given to it by those who in their daily devotions make use of it. "David Bruce" is concluded, and there is a pleasant sketch entitled "Just a Little Way."

The new volume by the late editor of the *Expositor*, of which mention has already been made, is being rapidly passed through the press, and will be pub-

lished early next month by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, under the appropriate title of *Expositions*. It consists of thirty original discourses on subjects of varying interest, treated in the manner which Dr. Samuel Cox has made his own.

The delegates of the Clarendon Press announce as nearly ready, *The Plays performed by the Crafts or Mysteries of York on Corpus Christi Day in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Centuries*, edited from Lord Ashburnham's unique MS. by Miss Toulmin Smith. The text consists of forty-eight plays in poetry, and while adhering faithfully to the MS. has been made as comprehensible as possible for the modern readers, a full glossary being appended. Facsimiles are given of the music accompanying one of the plays, which has been edited by Mr. W. H. Cummings. The Introduction contains extracts from the municipal records of York relating to the plays, including Burton's list of A.D. 1415; notices of other early religious plays performed at York; a comparative table of the cycles of English plays; and a list of all known plays or cycles, and places where they have been performed, in Great Britain.

"EXSIBILATUR ET EXPLODITUR." —Cic.

Our pious Premier—much abused,
Of noble Gordon's death accused,
How shall he face an angry nation?
How bear his griefs?—with Resignation.
W. F. A.

EMINENTISSIMIS VIRIS JUDICIALIS COMITATUS,

IN

ALBA AULA

SEDENTIBUS

M. S.

NON SINE LACRYMIS

EURICOLA FLORANS.

Ecce Quidam Causidici sedentes
Albâ in Aula consociant frequentem;
Est datum nomen COMITATUS illis
JUDICIALIS.

Nec Gigantes Terrigenas tremendi,
Nec Titanum furiosâ turba
Talibus plagis adiere Cœlum,
Cœlicolæque—

Nec Notus nubes, Aquilove præcepæ,
Nec rupes Oceanus minatur
Talibus, quales tulit in Britannos
Hic Comitatus.

Patris leges, Logique normas,
Omne quod certum penitus refellit,
Falsæ veris substituantur arte
Insidiæ.

Æthra terret consiliis profanis,
Concitat Terram, et Mare luctuosum;
Atque Regna infra, Elysium Campi
Percontantur.

Sic vetusti Causidici resurgunt,
Cerberum vitant, Achæronta tranant,
Atque festinant superas ad auras
Horribiles.

Ecce Porcus,* Lineælyra,* Bracton,*
Et Coquus,* Nigræslapia,* et Casanbon,*
Comyn,* et Facens,* veniunt, et Ardor,*
Mente agitant.

Conque plorantis Niobes alumne
In sinu stillant lacrymas tepentes,
Ora sic horum maculat vetusta
Flurima gutta.

Abetinent tandem lacrymis amaris
Et vetusti Causidici furentes
Incorpant tetri Comitatus atroem
Vocem tonitru.

Templi et Horti,* Curia,* Fœns et Ulmi,*
Et Papyri Teeta,* Nova Domique,*
Antlia,* et Lincolnis Agri,* tumultu
Concitantur.

Artium leges sciuntur unâ
Omnium, ut Porcus,* docet ille doctus,
Frangis unam, sic minitatis artes
Funditis omnes.

Artibus sic multijhomines perit
Nunc parent ne artes lacerentur omnes,
Atque plorant, auxiliumque querunt
Vocem querela.

Questibus motus veniens Apollo,*
Artium semper Pater atque Princeps,
Monstrat ut leges quantiantur omnes
Hic Comitatus.

Et Lyra tacta digitis perit
Ille leges Harmonis renarrat;
Monstrat ut rectâ Comitatus arte
Errat ab omni.

Monstrat, ut Lex Harmonis gubernet
Fixa mundum, perpetuâque perstat,
Hæc sed Albâ Causidici in Aula
Dilacerantur;

Talibus Doctrina sepulta normis
Fallat. Artes ingenus perirent,
Atque Mores interiret. Relicta
Nulla Palæstra.

Proh Pudor! Vos Causidici! Timeamus
Ne mali cives vigeant ovantes,
Ne boni cives dolant repulsi
Jure negato.

Sic fremunt cives. Adeunt Coronam,*
Que jubet Cœtum,* glomerare cœsum,
Hique condemnant,* vehementer omnes
Crimina vestra.

Non videtis quæ miseranda fata
Punient vestrum Comitatum iniquum?
Nonne mandabit Nemesis tremenda
Vos dare penas?

Vester ex Albâ Comitatus Aula
Pulsus et plorans abigetur atrox,*
Curis linquens sapientiori
Jus dare nobis.

Orpheus chordæ revocare querunt
Inferis sponsum Eurydicoen ab umbris;
Nomen at Nemo revocare vallet
Vestrum odicium.

Ecce vos! tandem mala quæ tremenda
Jure perverso exoriantur Orbi;
Atque postscriptum legitote Cauti;
Atque cavete!

P.S.

Regulas Ecclesiæ quas recipit,
Atque nobis edocet Alma Mater,
Non docet vestris lacerare tortas
Artibus atris.

Atque prudentes pueros oportet
Vestris non exempla sequi nefasta,
Ne magister nuda severus ima
Terga flagellet.

Vestra sic plagis quantiantur ima;
Atque [quam justam meruistis] Una
Qualque pro mendâ, pede dante, tundat
Posteriora.

Feb. 23.

1. The Privy Council Chamber in Whitehall.
2. The Judicial Committee.
3. The Committee above recorded.
4. Bacon.
5. Lyndwood.
6. Bracton.
7. Coke.
8. Blackstone.
9. Casanbon.
10. Chief Baron Comyn.
11. Lord Dyer.
12. Burn. All the above (from Bacon inclusive) are authorities on the subjects mentioned by the Judicial Committee.

13. The Temple Gardens.
14. Elm-Court, Temple.
15. The Fountain therein.
16. Paper Buildings, Temple.
17. New Buildings, Temple.
18. The noted Pump in Pump-court, from which the learned profession was wont sometime to imbibe immense quantities of approved jurisprudence. It has, alas! been now removed, shattered by this shock.

19. Lincoln's Inn Fields, that stronghold of ancient law.
20. Bacon, *Nov. Organon*.
21. "*Nec Deus interit*," is no doubt generally a very salutary rule. But really here there is a "*modus vivendi dignus*,"—as all human remonstrances even from Members of the Judicial Committee itself against its extravagances seem wholly futile. Its contradictions of its own Judgments would be simply ludicrous, were not the results too serious a matter for laughter. At one time, it decided that certain dresses were legal; at another, that they were illegal. At one time, the words heading a rubric governed the whole succeeding sentence; at another, that they did not. There was also something very comical in its quoting as an authority for some events Peacock's book which was written and published before they occurred. However, now this Committee, like a weight on descent, seems to gather speed and force in progress. It has now rolled to the lowest abyss of absurdity. Its last exploit in Ecclesiastical Jurisprudence [Merriman v. Williams] has been solemnly to adjudicate that—its Judgments are "*STANDARDS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND*." Surely the Members of the Committee ought to know, though it seems they don't, that such standards can only be adopted by the Church in her Synods. That those assemblies ever have adopted, or can or will adopt, such standards of belief as—"that there was no Consecration Prayer in the first Prayer-Book of K. Ed. VI.'s reign"—or "that Bishop Coles issued Visitation Articles fifteen years after he was in his grave"—is altogether incredible. But the above Judgments have been delivered by the Judicial Committee in Solemn Conclave. To declare that Judgments of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council, or, indeed, that the Judgments of any Court whatsoever [be its origin, constitution, or description what it may] become, as such, "standards of faith and doctrine adopted by the Church," betrays an hallucination of brain, a confusion of thought, and a prostitution of language, which one would hope can nowhere possibly find place outside the walls of the Privy Council Chamber in Whitehall. However, the world has been for some time accustomed to the issue of many very wild imaginations and astonishing deliverances from that Pythian Temple—as, for instance, that the provisions of a Statute of the realm can be repealed by Advertisements dated ninety-six years before its enactment; yet such is the information to be derived from the Central Delphic Oracle of Law in Whitehall.

22. Application to the Crown for a Royal Commission to inquire into your misdeeds.

23. The Royal Commission on Ecc. Courts appointed.
24. Commissioners' Report, which has passed sentence of death on the Judicial Committee in Ecclesiastical regards. "Tis no Theban puzzle, nor does it require an Œdipus to divine who wrote the scathing fifth paragraph on the very first page of the Report, or to discover against whose special misdeeds the rebukes therein contained were directed.

25. Execution is only stayed for awhile; the capital sentence will certainly be eventually carried out.

Correspondence.

ON THE ADORATION OF THE RESERVED SACRAMENT.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—I shall be glad of your permission to make a remark or two in reference to the note which you have appended to my letter of last week.

And, first, that I therein said nothing contrary to what Canon Carter has said in the letter to which you refer, and of which you have given a summary on p. 48. On the contrary, I "hope," as he does, "that the question of reservation may still be open to reconsideration."

My object in writing was, not to express any opinion on that question, but simply to protest against what seemed to me a strong condemnation of a right rev. speaker, who after all did not actually denounce the mediæval Adoration of the Sacrament as idolatry, but said that "it became something which one could hardly designate by a milder term." In these words he doubtless was thinking of the time when the doctrine of Transubstantiation had become the prevalent belief, which was the case long before it was made an Article of Faith. By this doctrine Christians were taught that, after Consecration, the substances of Bread and Wine cease to be, and that the "Host" is not a "Sacramental Element" (to use your own words), but Christ Himself, present in the very same Body as was born of the Virgin and Crucified. This "Host," therefore, is adored, not as

* *Souls and Cities*. By the Author of the *Chevelley Novels*. In One Vol.—W. Kent and Co., 1885.

a visible symbol or representative of the invisible Christ, but as Christ Himself.

I don't know how this Adoration may appear to other people, but to my own mind I confess that it is, as the right rev. speaker said, "something which can hardly be expressed by a word short of idolatry," though God forbid that I should presume to say that they who in simple though mistaken faith practice it are guilty of idolatry in the sight of God.

I should not have troubled you with any remarks of mine on this subject, had it not been for that excessive, and to my mind offensive, veneration for the Consecrated Elements, which seems to be becoming quite common among the younger clergy, who from their elaborate prostrations and prolonged manipulations, appear to regard such bodily worship as of far higher importance than the solemn words of the Eucharistic Service, which they too often repeat as if they thought them hardly worthy of distinct and deliberate articulation.

Permit an aged Presbyter (I trust not yet in his dotage) to ask a question for their consideration, viz.: May not such excessive veneration for the Consecrated Elements develop into the same Error in Faith and Practice as heretofore? History, we know, is wont to repeat herself.

I am, Sir, yours most respectfully and truly,
WILLIAM JOHN EDGE.

Upper Tooting, March 3.

[We assure Mr. Edge that our reference to Canon Carter's letter was only for convenience's sake. There was no intention to imply that Mr. Edge differed from the Canon. We have only to observe finally that Mr. Edge has entirely justified our contention. It is, to us at least, absolutely clear that if a man believes that the substances of Bread and Wine have ceased to exist, he cannot be guilty of worshipping them. There are several other serious points in our esteemed correspondent's letter which invite comment; but we desire to confine ourselves strictly to the question originally at issue.—ED. J. B.]

GORDON MEMORIAL.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—If Mr. Gladstone's name continues to remain on the Committee of "the Gordon Memorial Fund," any monument erected by them in honour of that dutiful soldier of Christ should bear the inscription:—

"Auxilium invident
Lapides largiuntur."

For Gordon's life was sacrificed to the discordant counsels and necessities of Mr. Gladstone's political supporters, and from Mr. Gladstone's speeches and conduct he appears to this day to remain impenitent.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS HUGH DEANE, B.D.

Hornington Rectory, Feb. 27, 1885.

[We sincerely trust that vigorous protests will continue to be made against an indecorum which amounts to a scandal.—ED. J. B.]

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. C. E. Barwise, to Vicarage of St. James's, Dallington. Patron, the Bishop of Peterborough.
Ven. Dr. Blunt, Vicar of Scarborough, Honorary Chaplain, to be Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen.
Rev. A. J. Brogden, to Rectory of Minckworth. Patron, the Bishop of St. Albans.
Rev. H. J. Browne, Vicar of Christ Church, Barnet, to be Domestic Chaplain to the Marquis of Salis.
Rev. H. W. Cooper, to Vicarage of Newborough. Patron, the Queen.
Rev. H. A. Crosbie, Vicar of Milnrow, Rochdale, to Vicarage of Trumpton, Cambridge.
Rev. G. Dale-Copeland, Vicar of St. Stephen's, Walworth, London, to Rectory of Rainton.
Rev. F. Davies, Curate of Llanbedrog, Carnarvonshire, to be Perpetual Curate of Garthell, Cardiganshire. Patron, the Vicar of Llanfawer.
Rev. W. P. Dawe, Curate-in-Charge of Hollingworth, Tintwistle, Cheshire, to Vicarage of Satterthwaite, Ulverston.
Rev. J. N. Earl, Curate of Howden, York, to Vicarage of Sherburn. Patron, the Archbishop of York.
Rev. H. F. Gore-Booth, Curate of St. Saviour's, Hoxton, to Rectory of Sacred Trinity, Salford. Patron, Sir H. W. Gore-Booth, Bart.
Rev. J. M. Griffiths, Vicar of Moylgrove, to Vicarage of Llanfawer, Cardiganshire. Patron, the Bishop of St. David's.
Rev. W. H. Gunyon, Incumbent of West Stockwith, to be General Preacher Diocese of Southwell.
Rev. T. M. Harrison, Curate of Christ Church, Adlington, to be Curate-in-Charge of All Saints, Haverham.
Rev. E. H. Higga, to Rectory of Braybrooke. Patron, Mrs. Higga.
Rev. F. J. Horsfield, to Curacy (Sole Charge) of St. Thomas's, Newbury.
Rev. W. Jones, Curate of Tatalyera, to Rectory of Telford-Henlan, Cardiganshire. Patron, the Bishop of St. David's.
Rev. T. H. Kynaston, to Rectory of Bushey. Patron, Mrs. Gregory.
Rev. S. K. Lockyear, to be Curate-in-Charge of Linton, Burton-on-Trent.
Rev. M. D. Malden, Vicar of Bearted, Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Canterbury.
Rev. G. C. Martin, to Vicarage of St. John-the-Baptist, Ford, near Folkestone.
Rev. G. A. Ormsby, Rector of Rainton, to Vicarage of St. Stephen's, Walworth.
Rev. C. H. Raikes, Vicar of Chilton, to be Rural Dean of Avebury, Second Portion.
Rev. J. Roe, Curate-in-Charge, to Vicarage of Christ Church, Bridlington Quay. Patron, the Vicar of the Priory Church, Bridlington.
Rev. G. Sarson, Rector of Orlestone, to be Perpetual Curate of Holy Trinity, Dover. Patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury.
Rev. M. W. J. Smart, to Vicarage of Bishopwood. Patrons, the Trustees.
Rev. W. F. Smith, to Vicarage of Yazor. Patron, the Bishop of Hereford for this turn only by reason of lapse.
Rev. E. Watte, to be General Preacher in the Diocese of Rochester.
Rev. G. Whitehead, to Vicarage of St. Andrew's, Northampton. Patrons, Miss Byndman's Trustees.

LICENSES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF CHESTER.—Rev. Robert Moore Peile Butler, B.A., to Frodham; Montague Richard Sharp, M.A., to Nanwich.
LICENSES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL.—Rev. T. M. Carbone, M.A., to Tewkesbury; A. R. Martin, to Falmouth.
LICENSE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.—Rev. Arthur Henry Saint Patrick, M.A., to Leysters.
LICENSES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE.—Rev. Michael Watson Bodley Ibare, M.A., to Christ Church, Tyneworth; Walter Harrington, B.A., to Acklington; William Malow O'Brady Jones, B.A., to Earsdon.
LICENSE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—Rev. Josiah Marling Appley, M.A., to St. Margaret's near Rochester.
LICENSES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.—Rev. Charles William Augustus Gahneville, B.A., to South Hanningfield; James Gustin Hartson, to Springfield. Edmund & Iphigene Keene, M.A., to Copford.
LICENSE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.—Rev. John Jones, to Llanguloch.

OBITUARY.

Feb. 26, at Weston-super-Mare, the Rev. Arthur Loveday, Rector of Yatford, Dorset, aged 58.
Feb. 27, the Rev. Charles William Cox, M.A., Rector of the Lower Medley of Malpas.
Feb. 28, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Rev. John F. Biggs, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Northumberland, aged 70.
Feb. 28, the Rev. John Hall, Vicar of St. Philip's, Queen's-road, Battersea-park, aged 67.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's yesterday week received the *compte d'elire* from the Crown directing them to elect a new occupant for the See of London, and the election has been fixed for March 9.

The *Daily News* understands that the project for the creation of a Bishopric in Fiji has been abandoned. It was approved by the Primate, but unexpected difficulties have arisen to prevent the realization of the scheme.

By the death, in his 60th year, of the Rev. John Hall, the vicarage of St. Philip's, Battersea-park, has become vacant. It is in the gift of the Bishop of Winchester, and of the value of £200 a year.

Archdeacon Farrar has become a vice-president of the National Free and Open Church Society.

Bishop Selwyn, of Melanesia, is expected to arrive in England about the middle of the present month. It is considered not unlikely that his experience and advice may be utilised in connection with the proposed settlement of some pending questions.—*Daily News*.

The new wing of the Church Missionary House in Salisbury-square was opened on Wednesday.

Three stained-glass windows have lately been added to Bexley Church. The first, representing the Patriarchs, is a memorial of the son of Mr. A. W. Bean, Danson Park; the second, the Judges, is to the memory of Mr. W. Spottiswoode, P.R.S.; the third, the Kings, to the memory of the father and son of Mr. C. Pickersgill, of Blendon Hall. The windows were designed by Messrs. Bodley and Garner, and executed by Messrs. Burlison and Grylls.

A memorial to the late Archbishop Tait was yesterday week presented to Edinburgh University. It consists of a bust in bronze, built against the eastern facade of the new university buildings, near which the Archbishop was born. The memorial was handed over to the custody of the university authorities by Lord Balfour, and Sir William Muir, Principal of the University, accepted it. The proceedings were witnessed by a large company.

As a memorial to the late Canon Evans, the three east windows of St. Mary's, Grassendale, near Liverpool, have been replaced by others from the studios of Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne. Their subject is the Adoration of the Lamb, and they give a beautiful finish to the decoration of the little chancel which Canon Evans had the satisfaction of seeing carried out a few years before his death. A brass plate mounted on polished marble has been let into the centre of the chancel floor and bears the following inscription:—"These windows were given by parishioners and friends to the glory of God and in memory of John Evans, M.A., first vicar of Grassendale, and Honorary Canon of Liverpool—from July, 1853, to 22nd January, 1884, vicar."

The Archbishop of Canterbury presided over a meeting of the past and present Wellingtonians, held on Saturday afternoon at Lambeth Palace, for the purpose of considering a scheme for the inauguration of a mission in connection with the Wellington College in a destitute district of London. The committee proposed that the mission should be called the Wellington College Mission, and that its field of labour should be in the parish of St. Peter's, Walworth. The mission will be dependent on the college. The school fund had undertaken to guarantee it £150 a year for five years, which would be applied to the payment of the mission clergyman's stipend and the ordinary expenses of the mission. They also hoped for help by old Wellingtonians in money and work.

At the Temple Church on Sunday a service was held in commemoration of the 700th anniversary of its consecration by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. The church was crowded in every part with benchers, barristers, and students of the two societies of the Inner and Middle Temple, besides a large number of strangers. The Prince of Wales was present as a bencher of the Middle Temple, and occupied one of the seats allotted to the bench of the society. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Prince George of Wales, and Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud of Wales. The service was of the choral character usual at the Temple Church, and was ably rendered under the direction of Dr. E. J. Hopkins, the organist. The preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

With the sanction of the Bishops of Durham and Rochester an exchange of livings has been arranged between the Rev. G. A. Ormsby, rector of Rainton, and the Rev. G. Dale-Copeland, B.D., vicar of St. Stephen's, Walworth, London. Mr. Ormsby is son of Judge Ormsby, of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, and Chaplain to the Duke of Manchester. For the last nine years he has been rector of Rainton, in the diocese of Durham, and previously was rector of Jarro-on-Tyne, in the same diocese. Mr. Copeland has for many years been vicar of St. Stephen's, Walworth, and is the founder of the parish, and is the author of many theological works.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into the condition of Cathedral churches in England and Wales have issued their separate report upon the Cathedral church of Peterborough. The report calls attention to the great expenses to which the Chapter have been put for many years by the repair of the fabric of the Cathedral itself and of the school buildings, the deanery, and the Canon's houses, and especially by the taking down of the central tower. It also states that, in consequence of the irregularity in the payment of rents, the incomes of the Dean and Canon have been for some time below the minimum contemplated by the Act of Parliament. A draft of statutes, to be substituted for those granted by Henry VIII., is appended to the report. It may be observed that the Dean of Peterborough adds his signature to those of the other Commissioners, but Canon Argles, the representative of the Chapter, declines, for reasons stated, to sign the report. In the appendix are found the questions sent to Cathedral Chapters and the answers received by the Commissioners.

The Rev. R. Trevor Tyler, rector of Llantrithyd,

near Cowbridge, and formerly domestic chaplain to King William IV. when Duke of Clarence, died recently at the age of 83 years. The deceased was the second son of the late Admiral Sir Charles Tyler, G.C.B., of Cottrell, Glamorganshire, by his marriage with Margaret, daughter of Mr. Alexander Leach, of Corston, Pembrokeshire, and was born in 1801.

RESERVATION OF THE EUCHARIST.

On this subject the Rev. A. G. Stallard, writing to a contemporary, observes that it is difficult to understand why in this matter English Churchmen should be different from every other part of the Church of every age. In one of the very first descriptions of the service of Holy Communion, we are told that the Sacrament was reserved for the sick, and so it has been at all times, in all places. Only necessity can warrant a breach of the general rule that priests should not celebrate in private houses. It has been the rule of the Church that the priest who celebrates should do so fasting; but unless the Sacrament be reserved for the sick, there must be frequent breaches of this rule. Article XXVIII. does not prohibit Reservation. The point is that Reservation was not the object of Christ's institution. One might as well say that the Roman Church prohibited Reservation because the Council of Trent asserts that the Sacrament "was instituted that it might be received." It is clear from the fact that the Latin Prayer-Book of Queen Elizabeth provided for Reservation that the Article was not supposed to prohibit it. Nor does the rubric at the end of the Communion Service prohibit Reservation for the sick if the reason of its insertion is remembered. On the difficulty of communicating sick people without Reservation he asks—Suppose a man is taken ill on a Sunday. There is of course a celebration in church. The priest has much to do. Is he to leave his poor sick man to die without the "most necessary Viaticum," or may he not carry it from church to the dying man?

He appeals to the Bishops to reconsider their words, to put no hindrance in the way of communicating the poor sick, and to let the people be taught the care that should be had about the place where Holy Communion is to be celebrated.

The Rev. Canon Carter, after correcting in the *Guardian* his former statement that the Scottish Prayer-Book sanctions Reservation—the fact being that Reservation is simply a custom of the Scottish Church—cites the following observations by the late Mr. Scudamore in support of the practice:—

"The rubric (i.e., of the First Prayer-Book) provided for a modified use of the Reserved Sacrament, the suppression of which in 1552, although entirely within the discretion of a national branch of the Church Catholic, we may be allowed to regret as rash and inexpedient. It identified the practice of our Church more fully with ancient, and even primitive, usage; and gave a solemn publicity to the Communion of the sick man, which would make it on his part a more marked confession of Christ before men, and tend far more to the edification of his Christian neighbours; the practicable disadvantage of the omission is also very considerable. In populous places, especially in times of pestilence, it is often extremely difficult to supply the wants of the sick and dying without it." (*Notitia Eucharistica*, First Edition, p. 878.)

THE REPAIR OF CATHEDRALS.

The object of a Bill which has just been introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer is to make further provision for enabling Deans and Chapters to discharge their liability to repair the Cathedral churches and other buildings belonging to them. Each Chapter is directed to set apart for the repair of the caputular buildings a "Fabric Fund" of such annual amount as Her Majesty in Council may deem sufficient to keep them in good substantial repair. First, however, a report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners is to be made on the matter, and any representation of the Chapter is to be taken into consideration. After the expiration of a year from an order being made the Dean and Canons are not to be entitled to receive for their own use any sum out of the caputular revenues until the fabric fund or a proportionate part of it has been duly set apart. At the beginning of each year an account is to be sent to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners showing the mode in which the fabric fund has been expended during the previous year. And if they consider that any sum has been expended on purposes to which the fund is not applicable it is to be replaced by the Chapter out of their other revenues. When there is in any year a surplus of a fabric fund it is to be invested until required for the purposes of the fund. The Bill also enables a Chapter to borrow of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on the security of the fund any sum that may be required for the restoration, repair, or improvement of the caputular buildings.

An important provision of the Bill is that at any time before the beginning of the year 1888 any Dean and Chapter may, by a scheme of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, ratified by order in Council, transfer to the Commissioners all the property of the Chapter which yields revenue. In return they will receive from the Commissioners an annual money payment not exceeding the sum that on the commutation of the Chapter's estate was fixed as their annual income, or where no such sum has been fixed the sum that the Commissioners think fair and reasonable. The scheme is to apportion this annual sum between the fabric fund, the stipends of the Dean and Canons, and the Chapter's expenses, including those of the services of the Cathedral. An inducement to such a transfer of property is held out by the provision which enables a scheme to provide for a grant out of the Commissioners' common fund for substantial repairs, restoration, and improvements where Her Majesty in Council is satisfied on the representation of the Commissioners that "special circumstances require the grant to be made." As to these matters the Bill contains a special provision for chapters originally endowed by the Commissioners.

Like a rector, every Dean and Canon to be appointed hereafter will have to repair his house and other buildings which he has in respect of his office. But where any such repairs have by law or custom been executed at the cost of the Chapter's revenues, the

first successor to the present holder of the office may receive out of the revenues such reasonable sum in respect of dilapidation as the Commissioners may allow. The measure is not to apply to Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, nor to any Cathedral that has been founded since 1874. In applying to Manchester Cathedral the Bill provides that all surplus proceeds of the Chapter's property are to be used in making better provision for the cure of souls in the ancient parish of Manchester or in some cure formed out of it.

THE VOLUNTEERS IN TIME OF WAR.

General Sir Edward Hamley sets forth in the *Nineteenth Century* a plan for the employment of the volunteers in time of war. The force, now numbering 214,000 men, works well when associated with regulars, and with training would be fit to meet foreign troops in the field. The question arises, How is this excellent weapon to be employed effectively, so as to be able to guard our shores and to assemble promptly on the line of invasion?

To assemble the volunteer corps, rifle in hand, at their 178 headquarters, is only a first step. They must be able to march, to encamp, to remain for any requisite time in positions where large bodies could no longer rely on the railways for supply; they must have haversacks, water-bottles, knapsacks, mess-tins, and cartridges; they must be accompanied by tents, provisions, ambulances, and ammunition. To indicate the sources from which all these could be promptly drawn would be going only a very small way to the end. This vast quantity of equipment, to be ready for immediate use on an emergency, must be stored at the headquarters of corps. Magazines should be formed at points from whence ammunition could be at once directed on several possible lines of invasion; and depôts should also be established at these points. The writer insists upon the necessity of completing beforehand the plans necessary to meet an invasion. These being finally settled, all the auxiliary forces should rehearse on the ground what they would actually do in time of war; form camps; occupy the line of the position; see every outpost and every sentry posted—till every company of the counties along the coast would know its place and part in the defence of its own locality. Instead of the ordinary autumn manoeuvres, all the forces of at least the eastern and southern sections of the country, militia, volunteers, and regulars, might be assembled as defensive armies.

General Hamley next discusses the special advantages which an army defending an island enjoys over one crossing the sea to invade it, and how these might be improved. The enemy's march would be accompanied only by field artillery. Our guns of position (of larger calibre than field artillery) would be of immense advantage in a pitched battle. Batteries of 40-pounders, placed on commanding ground, would defeat the endeavour of the enemy to crush our artillery with his own. Let these guns, with their full equipment, be given as soon as possible into the charge of the artillery volunteers who would employ them in action, so that they might be thoroughly practised in their use.

The engineer volunteers, like the rest, should have their places assigned, and spend some part of their training in becoming familiar with the sites of the trenches and batteries they would have to construct. Our navigable rivers might be defended by submarine mines in charge of the engineer volunteers dwelling along the banks. A register should be made of all the means of transport, horses, waggons, and carts in the various localities, and their assignment to the troops in the field.

To render London safe General Hamley proposes the formation of a line of positions from Claybury Hill to Barking, thence south of the Thames by Plumstead and Shooter's Hill to Bromley, or, to preserve Woolwich from fire, by the more forward front of Erith, Bexley, Chislehurst, Bromley, and on by Beckenham, Upper Norwood, and Wimbledon to Kingston Hill, from whence the Thames would be the front of defence to Kew; thence north of the river by Acton, Willesden, Muswell Hill, Tottenham, and Woodford, to Claybury. Within this circuit of fifty miles positions must be chosen, each including a group of roads leading upon the capital from a possible landing-place. On this basis 60,000 men might defend London, who should have their headquarters within, or very little outside, the circle of defence.

The cost of equipment for the field General Hamley estimates at £2 1s. 6d. per man, or a total of £442,000. The addition of 52,000 volunteers for giving full effect to this scheme would require £107,000 more.

The magazine and store centres might be thus assigned: north of the Thames at Willesden, Highgate Junction, and Stratford in Essex; south of the Thames at Wimbledon, Croydon, Woolwich, and Chatham. Plenty of accommodation exists at the two last-named places; there would thus be five centres to provide for. Each of these should have a magazine to hold 300 rounds for sixty guns, with a shell-store, and a store for field equipment, as tents, &c. To lease the site, and construct these buildings, may be estimated at £25,000 a centre—£125,000 in all. Small magazines, gun-sheds, and drill-sheds at such headquarters of corps as do not always possess them, say £100,000. Still better, perhaps, might it be to rent existing buildings for the purpose. A year's work on the general plan of defence (and a year might go far to finish it), with a staff of thirty to forty officers and a sufficiency of draughtsmen, might cost £25,000. Total, in round numbers, £800,000. Thus a grant of a million would leave a large margin with which to indulge any liberality towards the force that might seem most expedient.

EDUCATIONAL.

THE EDUCATIONAL GRANT TO VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

Deputations from the National Society, the Liverpool School Board, the Liverpool School Managers' Conference, and the Liverpool Diocesan Board of Education, on Monday had an interview with Lord Carlingford and Mr. Mundella at the Education Department, with a view of abolishing the 17s. 6d. limitation of the grant a head.

From a statement put forward by the deputation it appeared that the 17s. 6d. limitation, which super-

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needed a still more rigorous restriction previously existing, was introduced by a clause of Section 19 of Lord Sandon's Act of 1876, to the effect that the grant to any school should not exceed 17s. 6d. a child in average attendance, except by such a sum as the income of the school from sources other than the Government grant exceeded the same amount for every child. This limitation was expected to benefit poor schools which should merit a large grant through exceptional excellence, but it had been found that while the amount of grant for every child had increased by 3s. 2½d. the cost for every child had increased by 4s. 8½d. There ought, therefore, to be a still further relaxation, if not the removal of the limitation altogether. Briefly, the arguments against the 17s. 6d. limitation may be stated as follows:—(a) The limitation involves an unequal treatment of Board and Voluntary schools, the former, if touched at all, being able to fall back on the rates, while the managers of Voluntary schools must make good by subscriptions any deficiency caused by deductions from the grant; (b) its operation is further objectionable on this ground, that it tends to limit the largest grants to high results produced in an expensive way, and practically prohibits managers from substituting care and labour for the outlay of money; and (c) it seriously threatens educational efficiency, because managers and teachers are under a strong temptation to make but faint efforts to merit a grant which they cannot actually receive.

Mr. PAGER, M.P., said the Voluntary schools in England were unanimous in asking for the modification or the entire abolition of the 17s. 6d. clause, and in this they were supported by those who were interested in the management of the Board schools. He argued that under the altered circumstances existing now the provision in the clause in question operated most harshly on the poorer Voluntary schools, and in its effect was injurious to the attainment of efficiency in the schools and their economical administration.

Mr. F. S. Powell, Canon Gregory, the Rev. Canon M'Neil, the Rev. B. Bridges, and Mr. Bushell having spoken, Lord CARLINGFORD, in reply, said that an alteration such as they desired could not be effected by an amendment of the code, and would require a separate Act of Parliament, to obtain which was not by any means a simple matter. The question would be regarded in the House of Commons as an attempt to secure additional State aid for voluntary and denominational schools, and as such would be considered, like the concessions of 1876, as a breach of the compromise of 1870. In the result the majority of the House of Commons would probably see in the limitation an embodiment of the principle that the State should not be required to provide the whole means of education in these cases independent of local effort.

Mr. MUNDELLA also replied. He observed that the Education Department could not, without the intervention of Parliament, exceed by one farthing the 17s. 6d. grant. He argued that this limitation, so far from injuring the Voluntary schools, represented by the National Society, had operated in their favour, for while the subscriptions had diminished the cost a head of the children had been more than met by the code, and already there were numbers of Voluntary schools self-supporting and receiving no voluntary subscription whatever. Mr. Baron had written to him asking whether the Board were not allowed to charge interest on the cost of building, and on the same day Mr. Baron wrote to the *Times* stating definitely that they were allowed. Before Mr. Baron made that statement he ought to have waited for an answer, because his statement in the *Times* was entirely inaccurate. On going over the returns under the new system, he found that for an increased expenditure of 1s. 8½d. per head in the Voluntary schools the grant had recouped them 3s. 8½d., and whereas in 1876 the cost of educating every child was 8s. 8½d., in 1884 it had fallen to 6s. 8½d., a diminution of no less than 2s. This clearly showed that the altered state of circumstances did not consist in the higher cost of education; and with the fact must be borne in mind the increased grants which the schools had been able to earn.

Canon M'NEIL observed that the argument would be irresistible if the subscriptions came out of a common fund; but their difficulty lay in making provision for the very poor schools.

Mr. MUNDELLA replied that, in such an organisation as the National Society, surely something might be done in the way of giving greater assistance to the poor schools and less to the rich. If any one thought there was a chance of getting rid of the limitation altogether, and that the House of Commons would be prepared to allow schools to be carried on as private adventures, enjoying a monopoly for the education of a district, they should endeavour to induce a member to bring in such a Bill. His advice, however, was that they should let well alone, and not reopen a dangerous question.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty, Princess Beatrice, Prince Louis of Battenberg, and the members of the Royal Household attended Divine service in the private chapel of Windsor Castle on Sunday morning. The Rev. St. John Blunt preached the sermon.

On Sunday morning the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince George, and by the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, were present at the 700th anniversary service at the Temple Church. The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice are, according to the most recent arrangements, to leave Windsor Castle about the close of this month for Germany.

The Queen has given orders to Mr. Boehm to execute a bust of General Gordon, which will be placed in the corridor at Windsor Castle.

The Prince of Wales held a Levée on Monday afternoon at St. James's Palace on behalf of the Queen. The diplomatic and general circles were largely attended, and numerous presentations were made.

The Queen's physicians have advised Her Majesty to avoid the fatigue of appearing at the first Drawing Room, which is to be held on Thursday next. The Princess of Wales will, therefore, act for the Queen on that occasion. The second Drawing Room of the season will be held on the 18th inst.

It is stated that the two sisters of General Gordon, who reside at Southampton, have refused to receive any public grant or pension in recognition of the national services of their late brother. On behalf of the Government Mr. Gladstone had offered to secure to these ladies an annual allowance, and had further promised to see that the annuity was granted without the necessity of asking it from Parliament, but the offer was declined.

Accompanied by the Duke of Bassano and others, the Empress Eugénie was returning on Monday from an afternoon ride, and when nearing home and opposite some cottages at Farnborough-green the horses took fright at a man unloading some coal. They became unmanageable, and bolted in the direction of the principal entrance to the park. When nearing it they ran against a lime cart, the shaft of which, penetrating the breast of one horse about three feet, killed it. This collision bringing the carriage to a sudden stop, the coachman and occupants were thrown out into the roadway. The Empress escaped with a severe shaking, as also did the Duke de Bassano, but, unfortunately, the coachman was so much injured that he was conveyed home, and medical assistance called in at once.

The London School Board on Thursday adopted the revised estimate which had been reduced by £60,000, after the withdrawal of an amendment brought forward by Mr. Gudgeon to strike out £1,045,365, the amended estimate, and insert £856,132, pending a further examination of the estimates of the Statistical, Works, and Store Committees. It was resolved that home lessons should be discontinued in cases where there was an objection on the part of the parents, or where the children were in a delicate state of health. Miss Taylor's motion that the Board should petition Parliament for power to pay the members of the Board an annual amount not exceeding £200 each was rejected by 32 to 6 votes.

Sir William Harcourt received at the Home Office on Thursday afternoon a deputation from the East of London, who wished to urge the necessity of Thames crossings below London-bridge. In reply, the Home Secretary said he never had deputations from Liverpool, Glasgow, or Manchester crying to the Government to undertake these works. It was quite impossible for the Government to undertake the work of administering London. What the Government could do was to give London a body that could administer it; but as long as the Metropolitan Board existed he could not take the work out of their hands. He felt very strongly that relief work should be set on foot in the East of London.

The opponents of experiments on animals at Oxford are making another effort to put an end to the teaching and study of physiology in the University. They have sent to every member of Convocation throughout the country invitations to attend and vote against a decree to provide for the annual expenses of the Physiological Department. It has become necessary to issue a counter manifesto, in which it is pointed out that the expenditure asked for is for instruction, not experimental research, and that its defeat would seriously interfere with the efficient carrying out of the arrangements now in progress for the teaching of medicine in Oxford, which teaching will have its seat in the new and very ornamental buildings in the parks, now approaching completion. The list of signatures comprises the names of the Dean of Christ Church and of nearly all the heads of Colleges, as well as many well-known names in Oxford.

The estimates for the civil services for the ensuing year have been issued. The total amounts to £17,678,149, which is a net increase of £299,487. The only serious increase is in class 4, which includes public education. The estimate for the year for England is £3,302,772, which is an increase of £296,605; for Scotland £500,174, increase £24,761; Ireland £786,303, increase £53,676; a total increase of £365,042. In class 3 there is a net decrease of £62,925, which is more than made up by the reduction in the Irish charges. Law charges and criminal prosecutions in Ireland are less by £19,825; Land Commission by £34,753; and constabulary £60,004, or together £111,582. On the other hand, the English metropolitan police is increased by £14,965; special police by £28,000; and county and borough police by £20,045. In class 5, there is a net saving of £123,779, mainly on the diplomatic, consular, and slave trade services. The vote for Cyprus remains at £15,000. For the repairs of damage by the dynamite explosion at Westminster a vote of £8,625 is asked, £6,135 being for the House of Commons, and £2,500 for Westminster Hall. £10,000 is also asked for the restoration of Westminster Hall. £10,000 is the estimate required for the ensuing year for the new Admiralty and War Office, which will make the total sum voted £181,000. The further amount required to complete the service is £684,000.

A meeting of the Victoria Institute took place on Monday evening, when a paper, entitled "Was Primeval Man a Savage?" was read by Mr. J. H. Huxell, in which he referred to Dr. Darwin's work, in which was given a description of the habits and mode of life of man in primeval times, when Dr. Darwin considered him to have been a savage. The author, however, disputed that this was man's first condition, and urged that there was a total absence of historical evidence to show that uncivilised men, left to themselves, had ever risen out of a savage state. No nation had ever been known to civilise itself. On the contrary, whole systems of civilisation, left to themselves, had been lost, and had perished, and races had relapsed into barbarism. The author referred to the investigations on this point by Dr. Wallace and others. The conclusions of Professor Max Müller were also referred to. He, agreeing with the Duke of Argyll, considered the present savages as degraded races, and not specimens of primitive man. Their languages show signs of this, and give evidence of their having fallen from a higher and nobler condition.

Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich, and 149, New Bond-street, London, solicit a visit to their showrooms, where they have always on view stained-glass windows and other objects of ecclesiastical art, executed for almost any part of the kingdom. Messrs. Mayer and Co. will have great pleasure in submitting designs and estimates for any window in contemplation, free of all charge.

The University boat-race is to be rowed from Putney to Mortlake on Saturday, the 28th inst.

A Supplementary Estimate was published on Thursday providing for 3,000 men of all ranks required for Army service, in addition to the number already voted. It is stated that this number represents the probable maximum excess beyond the establishments fixed for the year 1884-85, consequent upon the issue of the Royal Proclamation affecting the transfer of men to the Reserve. The *Times* believes that the Government are about to ask the assent of Parliament to an immediate increase of the Army. It will probably amount in effect to some 12,000 or 15,000 men.

According to an interesting note in the *Daily News* some 20,000 trees have been ordered from Norway for service as telegraph poles for the 900 miles of additional telegraph lines required outside London for the introduction of the sixpenny telegrams in August next. English larches have been found wanting in durability. In America preference is given to the cedar, which, if felled in winter when the sap is low, lasts for sixteen years. But, on the whole, the poles require renewing every ten or fifteen years. Iron offers, of course, the advantage of greatest durability, but whether it is sufficient to counterbalance their extra cost remains to be proved. There are several around London on trial, and it is to be hoped that they will prove satisfactory, for they are much more ornamental.

The Bishop of Manchester, at the request of a public meeting, recently addressed a communication to Earl Granville urging that steps should be taken to prevent the evils which have often followed upon Anglo-French marriages. The Bishop has received the following letter from Earl Granville's secretary:—"Foreign Office, February 26.—My Lord, I am directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial adopted at a public meeting held at the Townhall, Manchester, on the 3rd inst., and signed by yourself as chairman, in which it is urged that the influence of Her Majesty's Government may be exerted to remove the hardships inflicted on English women marrying Frenchmen who have not complied with the existing regulations of the French marriage laws. I am in reply to inform you that the negotiations which have been carried on with the French Government for a long time past upon this subject have resulted in the adoption of a form of certificate to be issued by French Consular officers in the United Kingdom upon application prior to the celebration of marriages in this country between British subjects and French citizens. It is to the effect that the necessary public notices have taken place, that no objections have been raised, that all legal formalities have been complied with which are required to enable the parties to contract marriages in France, and that the proper conditions as to age and consent have been observed; and Her Majesty's Government are disposed to think that such a certificate will practically afford a remedy for the evil, of which there is such just reason to complain.—I have the honour to be, &c., J. FAUCONSTON. To His Lordship the Bishop of Manchester."

Sir Farrer Herschell, Q.C., M.P., the Solicitor-General, presided on Tuesday at the thirty-eighth anniversary festival in aid of the funds of the Asylum for Idiots, Earlwood, Red Hill, held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. The company present included Mr. Sheriff Whitehead, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, the Rev. D. A. Herschell, and most of the members of the Board, and a large number of friends. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, said it was sad enough to lose one of the faculties with which Providence had endowed man, but if there were any loss greater than another it was the loss of that divine faculty of reason, which controlled and regulated and utilised all the other faculties of man. It was that supreme loss which had led to the foundation of the institution whose cause he now pleaded. It was within the memory of living men when an idiot child was the butt of the children of the village and lived a life of misery to itself and to its parents. There had passed through this institution 2,006 of such children, and, he asked, could anybody conceive the advantage it had been to the children themselves and to the parents? At this moment there were 589 children from all parts of the kingdom enjoying the benefits of the institution, and everything that kindness and science could suggest was done to ameliorate their condition. Their physical health and their mental condition were much improved. The reports of the society were printed by them, and they were taught tailoring, brush-making, and mattress-making, and other useful occupations. There were 170 candidates for admission at the next election, but he regretted to have to say that with the present low state of the funds only 30 could be admitted, and the Board earnestly asked for additional aid, so that a larger number, if not all the applicants, might be received. The Chairman next gave the "Corporation of London," which was responded to by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead, who said no corporation had ever so fully recognised the claims of charity. In the course of the evening subscriptions to the amount of £1,618 were announced, which included the sum of £50 from the chairman and £20 from Sir T. Fowell Buxton. We may state that provision can be made for the reception of private cases, on payments regulated by the board of management. Pamphlets explanatory of the institution, the last report, and all information may be obtained from the secretary, William Nicholas, Esq. (to whose untiring efforts the success of the institution is in a great measure due), on application at the offices, 38, King William-street. An annual subscriber has one vote at each election for every half-a-guinea contributed; while a life subscriber has one vote for life at each election for every five guineas contributed.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY PATENTED FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest animal charcoal, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

An important statement was made by Sir Saul Samuel, Agent-General for New South Wales, at a dinner of the Empire Club on Thursday evening, at which Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., presided. Sir Saul Samuel said that, so far from having declined the military assistance offered by the other colonies, Her Majesty's Government had stated their readiness to accept it in the autumn. The present time, however, was considered inopportune for sending more troops to Soukima.

At the Birmingham Assizes on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Mathew, the case of "Welsh v. the Bishop of Peterborough" came on for hearing. The action was brought by the widow and son of the late Rev. H. F. Welsh, of Pettishall, Northamptonshire, to obtain an injunction against the Bishop, restraining him from making a certain appointment to the advowson of the Vicarage of Pettishall, the gross annual value of which was £457. After some discussion, the Judge said the matter was one that could not be satisfactorily disposed of in a short period of time, and it was eventually decided to have the matter heard in London.

Peter Joyce, alias Larry Mack, was at Birmingham on Monday indicted before Mr. Justice Field, for publishing a libel on Richard Corbet Jarvis, well knowing it to be false. The libel which was the subject of this prosecution was published in a certain affidavit made with reference to the political riot at Aston last summer, and subsequently used by Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons. The sole question raised by the defence was whether the defendant was the man calling himself Larry Mack who made the statements and affidavit in question. On this question the evidence was of somewhat contradictory character. Mr. Justice Field, in summing up, remarked that it was a dreadful thing that thirty or forty men had been found in Birmingham to come forward and pledge their oaths to a false and malicious charge against Mr. Jarvis at the rate of 10s. a head. If such was the result of political rancour, what might be the result of private malice? The jury, after a very brief deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. Mr. Matthews, Q.C., then, on behalf of the prosecution, said that there had been no desire to press the case. Before the trial it had been admitted publicly that no imputation rested on Mr. Jarvis. As to the prisoner, he was a poor, ignorant fellow, who had been made a tool of by others, and it was desired to recommend him to mercy. In this recommendation the jury concurred. Sentence of six weeks' imprisonment was passed.

The Lord Mayor of London has granted the use of the Mansion House for the annual meeting of the Funeral Reform Association, to be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 15th, and will himself preside. The Bishop of Bedford and others have promised to take part.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Feb. 23 was—medical 976, surgical 590; total 1,566, of which 739 were new cases.

"They come as a boon and a blessing to men, The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen." The latest invention for rapid writing. The FLYING SCOTCHMAN Pen! 6d. to 1s. per box. The SCOTCH EXPRESS Pen! of all Stationers. "The fastest pens we ever used."—SPORTSMAN. Sample box with all kinds, by post, 1s. 1d. Patentees, MACNIVEN and CAMERON, Edinburgh.

Anyone afflicted with stammering or stuttering should read a little book (written by a gentleman who cured himself after suffering for more than thirty years) to be had from the Author, Mr. B. Bealer, Green Bank House, Hall Green, near Birmingham, for 12 stamps.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

BIRTHS.
Feb. 7, at Avocado Lodge, Bermuda, the wife of the Rev. T. F. FALKNER, M.A., Chaplain to the Forces, of a daughter.
Feb. 26, at Haslebourne, the wife of the Rev. F. CLYDE HARVEY, Vicar of Halesham, of twin sons.
Feb. 27, at the Vicarage, Biggleswade, the wife of the Rev. H. T. WOOD, of a son.
Feb. 27, at Tenby, South Wales, the wife of the Rev. F. N. CARDS-WILSON, of a daughter.
Feb. 28, at 17, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, Lady ABERCROMBY, of Fergies, of a daughter.
Feb. 28, at the Vicarage, Canon Pryn, Herefordshire, the wife of the Rev. G. F. BULMER, of a daughter.
March 1, at St. Edward's School, Oxford, the wife of the Rev. ALGERNON HARRINGTON SINNOTT, of a son.
March 1, at Wilton House, Eaton-square, the wife of the Rev. FRANK PARKER, of a daughter.
March 2, at 11, Grosvenor-crescent, the Marchioness of CARMARTHEN, of a daughter.
March 3, at the Chantry, Crediton, the wife of the Rev. J. JESS-P. TRAGUE, Chaplain of Crediton Church, of a son.
March 3, at Church-street, St. John's, Bridgewater, the wife of the Rev. CHARLES P. WINTER, M.A., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.
Feb. 17, at Rauceby, FARNBOROUGH AUGUSTUS CRACROFT, AMOOTS, late Major 5th Dragoon Guards, youngest son of Lieut.-Col. CRACROFT-AMOOTS, of Hockthorpe and Kettlethorpe; to KEMLEY GRACE, youngest daughter of the late ANTHONY WILLSON, Esq., of Rauceby Hall, Lincolnshire.
Feb. 28, at St. Mark's, North Andover-street, W., Major GEORGE LANFERN WICKHAM, Royal Horse Guards (Bn.), to Lady ELLEN MARY GORDON, daughter of the 10th Marquis of Huntly.
March 5, at St. Mark's, Old-street, E.C., W. H. FARROW, M.R.C.V.S., to SARAH, daughter of Mr. JAMES GOODCHILD, High-street, Romford, Essex.

DEATHS.
March 1, at Llanfair Rectory, Aberystwyth, ROSAMUND EMLEY, the beloved wife of the Rev. WILLIAM J. G. LINDSAY, aged 44.
March 1, HENRY FRANCIS AGLAND, infant son of the Rev. HENRY STANFORD PRIOR, M.A., St. Mary-Church, Torquay, aged five months.
March 2, at the Vicarage, Harmondsworth, AGNES ETHEL STUCKLAND, the beloved daughter of the Rev. JOHN C. TAYLOR, aged four years three months.
March 3, at the Royal Marine Hotel, Kingstown, Dublin, ALICIA KATHERINE, widow of the late GEORGE DANIEL, Captain, R.N.

LATEST NEWS.

PARIS, March 6.

The *République Française*, in an article on the relations between England and Germany, says that a durable understanding between Prince Bismarck and England is impossible. Downing-street, in spite of the severe lessons of the last few months, has not yet learned to acknowledge the claims of other Powers in regard to colonial questions.

A telegram received here from Shanghai, dated to-day, confirms the news of an attack upon Ching-hai by the French squadron, but adds that it was without effect. The same telegram states that the attitude of the natives at Ning-po is causing alarm to the foreign residents at that place.

ALEXANDRIA, March 6.

Reports have reached here to the effect that Souakim is suffering from a scarcity of water. The Decan, Queen, Arab, and Manora have sailed for Suez.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

LORD GRANVILLE AND PRINCE BISMARCK.

In the Upper House Lord GRANVILLE made the following statement:—Your Lordships have doubtless read in the ordinary channels of information the speech made by Prince Bismarck several days ago on the subject of the relations between Germany and this country. I feel that it would be unbecoming either as respects this House or the German Chancellor to make anything like a lengthened reply here to what was stated in the Reichstag by Prince Bismarck, and for the reason that there are several points raised by him as to the number of our communications in writing, of despatches being published before being delivered, and of despatches published which ought not to have been published at all. I do not promise to touch upon these points, but I hope to be able to make a statement in the regular way to Prince Bismarck which will show him that a very different colour may be given to these proceedings. I need not be quite so reticent with regard to a speech which I made in this place, under the pressure of a severe Parliamentary attack, and which, to my sincere regret, has given annoyance to Prince Bismarck. I think from some misconception of the bearing of it. You will remember that in the course of his speech the Duke of Richmond made a fair Parliamentary attack upon us by saying, "It is shown in your own papers that your Egyptian policy is bad, that a great foreign statesman condemns it." I met this by the retort that he had no reason to complain of Prince Bismarck's disapproval, because we had not followed the advice—perhaps I ought to have said opinion—which he had given to the last and present Governments to take Egypt, advice which must be considered as very friendly to this country. I added that I presumed that the noble Duke did not expect us to abandon all liberty of action in foreign and colonial policy, a thrust which, however slight, I aimed at the noble Duke, and not in the least against Prince Bismarck. Prince Bismarck, however, to my great regret, construed this as having a meaning which I can positively assert I did not attach to it. He also complained of my having incorrectly described advice, or rather opinion, which, even if true, I had no right to mention, as it had been of a most confidential character. Now, as to the words "take Egypt," I might probably have used a better phrase, if I had spoken from written notes, although the words certainly apply either to an annexation or a protectorate, or even to an occupation for the future. With regard to a breach of confidence, I should deeply regret such act, which would be much more painful and injurious to myself than to any one else. The accusation does not, of course, apply to what happened under the late Government, when I had no access to official sources, though receiving, together with other leaders of the Opposition, much important information. It was assumed that what I had said as to advice given, or more properly speaking opinions expressed, was founded on very confidential and very friendly communications which passed in 1882, and of which the Prince gave a detailed explanation the other day. But I did not mean to refer to those private and very friendly communications which Prince Bismarck described in the Reichstag. I referred to subsequent declarations, not of a confidential character, which seemed to me to express that two years ago, whatever may be the opinion now, it was the wish and hope of the German Government that England should take upon herself to represent the interests of Europe in Egypt for the future. And I must add that I do not wish to imply that such a hope was expressed in a manner inconsistent with existing treaties. My object in making this statement is not to defend myself. It is for the purpose of correcting misapprehensions which are inevitable when important utterances on foreign affairs are conveyed by telegraphic messages, frequently incorrect, to all the capitals of Europe. I can conceive nothing more wanting in self-respect or in respect for the great Minister of a foreign and friendly State than that I should have spontaneously initiated in this place any attack upon such a person. Your Lordships will have noted with satisfaction the concluding words of Prince Bismarck on the future relations of the two nations, the more impressive as they were spoken at a moment of some annoyance. There seems to be suspicion in Germany that we are not fully cognisant of the present position of that great nation. I believe, on the contrary, that there is no country in which not only politicians, but all classes, more fully and cheerfully appreciate the immensely important position in Europe that Germany occupies since her own union. I believe it to be in the interest of Europe that German relations should be good with this country, and that they should not be less so with France and her other neighbours. I am sure that it is more than ever in the interest of Germany and ourselves that our relations should be good at a time when we are about to meet in almost every part of the world. While each will maintain their rights, I cannot doubt that we ought to advance in a great and common work of commerce and civilisation in a spirit of cordial co-operation. Your Lordships will not doubt that all my efforts will be exerted in favour of the conciliatory policy which Prince Bismarck has sketched out.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Captain James E. Erskine, R.N., A.D.C., late of H.M.S. *Nelson* and Commodore of the Australian Station, and Miss M. E. Constable, fourth daughter of the Rev. John Constable, rector of Marston Bygott, Frome, Somersetshire.

Also between Mr. Edward D. Hodgson, of Eaton Vale, Queensland, son of Mr. Arthur Hodgson, C.M.G., of Clifton, Stratford-on-Avon, and Miss Constable, eldest daughter of the Rev. J. Constable, rector of Marston Bygott, Frome, Somersetshire.

The marriage of Captain S. Walpole Follett, 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars, and Diana, third daughter of the late Mr. Charles George Fountaine, son of the late Andrew Fountaine, Esq., of Narford Hall, Norfolk, was solemnised recently in St. Luke's Chapel, Norwich Cathedral. The bridegroom wore the full uniform of his regiment, as did also his best man, Mr. E. Asheton Critchley (4th Hussars), and there were present also in uniform other officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned. The bride was conducted to the altar by her brother, Mr. Fountaine, of Narford Hall, who gave her away. She was attired in pearl-white duchesse satin, trimmed with Mechlin lace; a long tulle veil and small wreath of orange blossoms fastened by three diamond stars, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Fountaine. Her other ornaments were a ruby and diamond bracelet given by Lady Lawes, and a sapphire and diamond bracelet, the present of Mrs. Lawes; also a diamond pin, in the shape of a horseshoe and hunting crop, the gift of Mr. E. Asheton Critchley. The bridal bouquet of the choicest hothouse flowers was the gift of the bridegroom. The officiating clergy were the Rev. H. W. Turner, rector of Colton, Norfolk, and the Rev. W. T. Moore, Hon. Canon of Norfolk Cathedral. She was attended by four bridesmaids, who wore white plush, trimmed and draped with white lace; tulle veils and wreaths of white jasmine and myrtle. Each carried a bouquet of white flowers, and wore diamond, pearl, and lapis-lazuli bee brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. At the conclusion of the ceremony the guests were entertained at breakfast at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Charles Fountaine, in The Close. During breakfast the band of the 4th Hussars played an excellent selection of music on the lawn at the back of the house. A massive wedding bell, composed entirely of white camellias, was suspended over the heads of the bride and bridegroom as they sat at breakfast. The newly-married pair left London, en route for the Continent, amid a shower of rice and slippers.

An aristocratic congregation assembled at St. Mark's Church, North Audley-street, last Saturday, on the occasion of the marriage of Major G. L. Wickham (Royal Horse Guards) with the Lady Elena Gordon, fifth daughter of the late Marquis of Huntly, and sister of the present peer. The wedding party assembled at the church between half past ten and eleven o'clock. A detachment of the non-commissioned officers and troopers of the bridegroom's regiment were grouped on each side of the chancel during the ceremony. Captain E. G. H. Atherley, a brother officer of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The bride, who came at eleven o'clock, with her mother, the Dowager Marchioness of Huntly, was received by her eldest brother, the Marquis of Huntly, by whom she was given away. She was attended by four little bridesmaids, two of whom were her nieces, and two the twin nieces of the bridegroom. They were dressed in frocks of white Indian cashmere, made with blouse fronts, the tucked skirts being bordered with white fox fur, and the draped tunics caught up with white velvet ribbons; and had white plush Tam-o'-Shanters. Each wore an enamelled brooch with "W." in the centre, across which was a scroll bearing the bride's name, "Elena," with ivy leaves (the Gordon badge) on each side (the bridegroom's gift), and carried a bouquet of the loveliest white flowers. The bride's dress was of rich white Ottoman silk, made perfectly plain, with a long full train, and the bodice only was trimmed with small bouquets of orange blossoms; she wore a wreath of orange blossoms, and a veil of exquisite old lace (the gift of her mother), which was secured to the hair by several diamond crescents (the bridegroom's gifts). Many handsome toilettes were to be seen amongst the wedding party. After the ceremony the Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly entertained the wedding party at breakfast at their residence in Hereford-gardens, during which the band of the St. George's Rifle Volunteers performed a varied programme of music. At a quarter to one o'clock Major and Lady Elena Wickham took leave of their numerous friends, and started on their way to Park Hill, the bridegroom's residence, at Wetherby, near York.

TWO SACRED PICTURES.

There is so little in these days of Sacred Art properly so called, and our modern painters are so much inclined to waste their strength upon genre pictures and portraits, that we are always glad to find evidence of higher aspirations. If the aspirant fails, it may at all events be said of him *magna tamen excidit ovis*, and even in his failure there may be higher elements than constitute a conventional pot-boiling success.

Two paintings of sacred subjects, in which this higher aim is to be recognised and which lead to a more hopeful view of the present position of Religious Art than can be entertained by the critic who bases his estimate on Gustave Doré and the Royal Academy, were on Monday opened to the view of the public. These are Mr. Holman Hunt's "Triumph of the Innocents," at the rooms of the Fine Art Society; and M. Munkacsy's "Calvary," at the Egyptian Hall. In a descriptive pamphlet Mr. Hunt tells the story of the misadventure and disappointment which have occurred to delay the completion of his work. For more than twenty years Mr. Hunt has been in the habit of painting his biblical pictures in Palestine itself. It was there that he produced "The Scapegoat," "Jesus in the Temple," and the "The Shadow of Death," and thither, in 1875, two years after the last-named picture had been brought to England, he returned to paint after his own peculiar manner "The Flight into Egypt." Unfortunately, instead of leaving his canvases in the charge of regular agents, he entrusted them to a friend, through whose fault or misfortune they miscarried. The artist waited long months in

Jerusalem, but they did not arrive; the country was too unsettled for him to leave his family there and rush to Naples for what he wanted; and in an evil moment he bought in Jerusalem a piece of linen and determined to paint upon that. The linen would have done very well for a sheet or a table cloth, but it was far too slight to bear the weight of a large picture, and accordingly when, in 1882, Mr. Hunt brought home the work on which he had been engaged for some six years he found, to use his own words, that "all his drawing and modelling and colour indeed were marred by the irregularity of the plane on which they were given." The picture, in fact, was in a hopeless condition; it might as well never have been painted at all. There was nothing for it but to begin again, and accordingly on January 1st, 1883, Mr. Hunt began with a new and proper canvas to work upon the picture which is now exhibited. There is some satisfaction in learning that after all the old picture will not be lost; a clever restorer has relined it; the part most injured has been cut away and Mr. Hunt has hopes that with a little more work he will be able to make of it a thoroughly sound replica, to find a home perhaps amid some distant branch of the English-speaking race.

In his picture Mr. Hunt has given us a new rendering of the story of "The Flight into Egypt." The Virgin with the Child in her arms is mounted upon a she ass, which Mr. Hunt tells us belongs to the so-called Mecca breed, famous for its size and surefootedness; St. Joseph, his carpenter's tools slung over his back, is leading them and hurrying them forward across the plain of Philistia. Close by is a village with dogs prowling round it; the distant hills are studded with the watch-fires of the soldiery, towards which St. Joseph is turning anxious eyes; it is night, the moon and stars are shining. So far there is nothing in the picture which is not tolerably obvious and which another painter might not have invented. Mr. Hunt's own conception, that which gives the picture its name, is the procession of the spiritual bodies of the slain Innocents that accompany the fugitives from Bethlehem. Following the tradition of the Eastern Church, which makes the flight take place when Jesus was between one and two years old, the painter has represented the Divine Child at the age of sixteen months, and able, therefore, to look with interest and rapture upon his group of visionary playmates—or, as they should rather be called, upon the procession of infant martyrs that is escorting him. The Holy Family are in the dim moonlight, the Innocents are radiant with a supernatural glow. They are in three groups, symbolical of the degrees in which they have realised "the glory of their service." First come three who have passed, as it were, into the priestly stage, marked by the censor carried by the foremost child. Besides the Madonna are a throng of nine, moving forward in a rhythmic dance like the lovely forms of children on some frieze of Della Robbia's; while in the air behind are three more, on whose pale faces is still impressed the memory of the pains of death. The children of the central group are garlanded for sacrifice; and, by a happy fancy of the painter's, the chaplets of flowers that hang about them cover the traces of their wounds; one indeed, the leader, looks through the gash in his garment to find the mark of the sword-thrust that slew him, but it is gone. Other painters who have represented angel children have surrounded them with clouds, as in the Sistine Madonna and in Murillo's many "Assumptions;" in this picture the Innocents are stepping on a stream of the Water of Life, which moves forward as they move, and here and there gives off bubbles of glowing colour—"airy globes which image the Jewish belief in the Millennium that is to follow the advent of the Messiah." In the largest, brilliant with all the hues of the rainbow, there is faintly shadowed the vision of Jacob—the earliest suggestion, as some would hold, of a belief in another life.

In the picture, all too few, which Mr. Holman Hunt has produced we have (the *Times* says) been taught to find certain very distinct and individual qualities—a spiritualised imagination, minute local knowledge, a delight in glowing colour, like the colour of polished stones, and an extraordinary power of painting details. On the other hand, we have had to make our account with a certain hardness in the textures, both of flesh and of draperies, and with all that is disagreeable, as well as all that is pleasant, in bold and original views of colour. It is not too much to say that in this largest, latest, and longest meditated work Mr. Hunt's qualities and defects are seen at their height. Few will deny that the conception of the picture is as beautiful as it is original, or that the scene is happily chosen, or that the painting is wonderful, or that there are isolated bits of colour that blaze like gems. The expression of the Divine Child is also, to our mind, completely successful; and to say that is to say more than can be said of any but a very few of the masterpieces of the great Italian painters. But at the same time there are drawbacks to one's enjoyment—drawbacks that not even the excessive praise of Mr. Ruskin, reprinted with rather questionable judgment by Mr. Hunt in his pamphlet, is likely to make us forget. Even the thought of an Eastern moonlight can hardly reconcile us to the greenish hue that pervades all but the Innocents. The device of the two kinds of light has played havoc with the ordinary canons of the distribution of light and shade. The Madonna is more dignified than charming; the ass is wooden; Joseph's attitude is clumsy. In the hair of some of the children the painter has taken the classic poets at their word, and given us *purpureus capillus* with a vengeance; and yet, in spite of these criticisms, which will be on the lips of every one, there can be little doubt that "The Triumph of the Innocents" is a great picture. A hundred years hence, when its harshness has been toned and mellowed by time, it is likely enough that visitors to the National Gallery (where by that time it will surely be) will regard it as one of the most interesting English works of the later nineteenth century.

M. Munkacsy's "Calvary," which is said to be the largest picture that has been shown in London for many years past, is a companion painting to "Christ before Pilate," and will doubtless meet with a great success. To the right of the vast canvas stand the three crosses, arranged in a triangle; the time is before the moment of death. "Darkness is over the face of the earth;" that is, a portentous cloud is covering all the sky and overshadowing both Calvary and distant Jerusalem. Jesus is still alive; his eyes are cast up to heaven. At his feet are the three

Marys; the Virgin prostrate with grief, the fair-haired Magdalen weeping passionately, and the third Mary with her arms flung wide and her look fixed on the Crucified. The crowd sweeps by, for the dreadful work is done; rabbi and Roman soldiers, an Arab sheikh on horseback, the mob who clamoured for the crucifixion, the indifferent, the remorseful; while in the front a conscience-stricken figure—is it Judas or the Wandering Jew?—is rushing desperately away. Two rabbis are arguing the case; one is doubtful, the other, the embodiment of worldly common-sense, is justifying the forcible suppression of what he holds to be revolutionary teaching. Here and there is one who casts a glance backward at the cross; the centurion is plainly repentant; but in another moment, one feels, the world will have passed by, and Jesus will be left alone with the faithful group of mourners.

The aim of the picture is purely dramatic, and it will, therefore, be judged mainly by a dramatic standard. As for the technical qualities of the picture, there is all the breadth and force of painting and all the skill in arranging masses of sombre colour to which Munkacsy has accustomed us. On the other hand, the painting of individual faces is very rough, and the modelling is singularly weak.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES:

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the ACROSTIC EDITOR of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length. Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.

(FIRST MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

1. R a B
2. A li Bab A
3. B al T
4. B e T
5. I O U
6. T rad E

Light 1.—*Bab and His Friends*, by John Brown.

Answers have been received from Spero, Zyz, Land o' Nod, Kollie, Eldon, Work, Roma, Perservera, Felix, Lux, Hadji, S.O.F., Conjecture, G.C.H., Katydidd, Musquash, Hampton Courtier, Todcat, Peewit, and Paddy.

THIRTY-SIXTH QUARTERLY LIST.

1. Roelyn, Avalon, and Foil.
2. Kildale, Vis, Pupdog-wow, Pen, and Pomeranian.
3. Noryb, The Owl, Little Bear, Spero, Cymro, and Seedy.
4. Two Countesses, Godiva, Kotha, Roma, Zulus, L.E.L., and Bruce.
5. Bursleigh, Dunstan, Max, Land o' Nod, Katydidd, and Zante.
6. Iris, Etak, Noremac, Hadji, and B.H.S.
7. Pegasus, Sarnia, Pansy, Culverin, Sleepy, and Paddy.
8. Acme and Conjecture.
9. Perservera.
10. Asphodel, Sociable, and Work.
11. Peewit, Zyz, Zenobia, Hampton Courtier, Felix, and Pandora.
12. M.A.E.R.

The Quarterly Prize has thus been won by M.A.E.R., who is requested to send name and address for publication.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(FIRST MONTH, TENTH YEAR.)

PROEM.

Even if May flowers thereby gain,
To men they bring but the chance of pain.

1.

Rage and despair the patriots inspire,
Victory to win from the devouring fire.

2.

Though nothing of Greek a girl may know,
This one Greek word is familiar, I trow.

3.

Early ripe — this, the fate reserved
Not to linger well-preserved.

4.

The name of a cape that is not worn,
And the name of a fish that none will scorn.

5.

A city of palms in a Southern land,
Not far from the tideless mid-sea strand.

At a meeting of chairmen, secretaries, and other active members of Conservative Clubs and Associations held at the Central Patriotic Club in Pall-mall, it was resolved to establish a central "Rendezvous." The provisional committee was appointed, and will meet again next Monday evening. A vote of sympathy with General Gordon's relatives, commendatory of the Government, was approved in solemn silence.

The Earl Cowper, K.G., is to preside at the 102nd anniversary festival of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on St. Patrick's Day, the 17th inst. The success of the annual festival has an important bearing on the welfare of the charity, and it is to be hoped that those who wish well to the London poor (450 of whose children the society clothes and educates) may be present in larger numbers than usual on the occasion, the charity being greatly in need of aid.

Printed by E. D. MADDICK and Co., 1, Crane Court, Fleet-street, and Published for the Proprietors by E. D. MADDICK, at the Office, No. 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.—Saturday, March 7, 1885.